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TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR — No. 255

international review of the red cross



INTER ARMA CARITAS

**GENEVA
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
FOUNDED IN 1863**

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The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, together with the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the 144 recognized National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is one of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

An independent humanitarian institution, the ICRC is the founding body of the Red Cross. As a neutral intermediary in case of armed conflicts or disturbances, it endeavours on its own initiative or on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to protect and assist the victims of international and civil wars and of internal troubles and tensions, thereby contributing to peace in the world.

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HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES AND POLITICAL REALITIES

On 25 October 1986, the suspension of the South African government delegation from the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross jeopardized the principle of universality whereby all States party to the Geneva Conventions consequently attend the Conference.

It would be tempting—and far too facile—to judge the outcome of the Conference solely by this momentous decision, and see it as portending ill for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

If we share the ICRC President's conviction that the situation thus created must not constitute a precedent (see also page 327), we must now keep things well in perspective and, after the initial shock and distressing scenes, reflect upon the events and circumstances which led up to this very exceptional Conference to try and make a first objective assessment. The outcome of the Twenty-fifth Conference is neither as good as could be hoped, nor as bad as could be feared.

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For the first time since 1925, the International Conference met in Geneva. The city of Henry Dunant and the cradle of the Red Cross Movement, Geneva is also the European seat of the United Nations. The combination of these two factors is one of the reasons why this particular Conference was far more critical to handle than the previous ones. Most of the government representatives were either members of the permanent missions in Geneva or diplomats sent by their respective capitals, and were therefore professionals in multilateral diplomacy. This resulted in particularly vigorous and intense debates on agenda items of particular concern to governments. For the first time in years, the International Conference of the Red Cross was thrust into a world of political realities, from which it had so far been relatively "shielded".

The question of apartheid and events in South Africa, which had received extensive coverage by the media in recent months, deeply influenced the course of the Conference. What had been a mere foreboding in early 1986 gradually became a certainty in September: the International Conference of the Red Cross was likely to have to face a motion by the African group to expel South Africa from the Conference.

Solutions were envisaged, lines of action proposed and numerous steps taken by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, the ICRC and the League, as well as by Swiss diplomats and the African States. Intensive discussions were held in Geneva and in several capital cities. During the days that preceded the Conference, United Nations and International Red Cross circles in Geneva kept in constant touch, each trying to find a solution acceptable to all and anxious to prevent the Conference from foundering.

Just before the opening of the Conference, the General Assembly of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies had in fact scored a major victory in safeguarding the universality of the Movement, by confirming the South African Red Cross Society's legitimate membership thereof, since the Society complies with the principles of humanity, impartiality and neutrality. Fortunately, this position was not challenged in any way by the International Conference.

This was not to be the case for the South African government however: although South Africa was a rightful member of the Conference, being a party to the Geneva Conventions, the South African government delegation was suspended from taking part in its work by a roll-call vote: 159 votes were cast in favour, 25 against, and there were 8 abstentions; 52 delegations did not participate in the vote (see also page 326).

During the discussions that preceded the vote, two main lines of thought emerged:

- *The first advocated the urgent need to preserve the universality of humanitarian law, saying that it applied essentially in conflict situations and therefore could not possibly meet discrimination by further discrimination. Delegations upholding this point of view, which included the ICRC, felt that it was of vital importance to preserve the haven of dialogue which the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross represent in the midst of the battle. Many delegates moreover emphasized how dangerous it would be to set a precedent which, with one suspension after another, might ultimately lead to the total destruction of a Movement so patiently built up over 125 years.*

Besides, even if it were not a matter of formally excluding South Africa but of simply challenging the legitimacy of its representation, the result would be the same, because deciding on the "representativeness" of government delegations inevitably led to inextricable political discussions.

The other tendency that emerged from the discussions and which ultimately prevailed, was that apartheid was a case "sui generis" for this group, apartheid was such a fundamental violation of the very essence of human dignity that the representatives of African States (and of many other nations throughout the world) could not possibly be expected or required to sit in the same room as the delegation of a regime upholding a policy deemed to be based on racist principles. They considered that the South African government simply had to be suspended, in the name of human dignity which the Red Cross claimed to defend in all countries; such a decision was, they thought, in line with the course of history, and the future would show that the Movement had thereby finally gained complete credibility in the Third World. Failing this decision, they themselves could not continue to take part in a Conference that permitted the presence of representatives of such a regime.

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The image and memory of the Conference will undoubtedly be marked by this event, but it is also remarkable that the decision (voted under tumultuous conditions, by a roll call whose validity was contested by delegates demanding a secret ballot) paradoxically had a positive influence on the work that followed. Under the emotional impact of what had ensued, the heated discussions and tense proceedings that led up to the dramatic conclusion, the Conference felt the need to demonstrate its unity in discussing the two major items on its agenda: respect for international humanitarian law and the approval of new Statutes for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The first signs of the Conference's resolve to demonstrate unity and cohesion appeared during the examination of the new Statutes of the Movement by the Commission concerned: The draft submitted by the League and the ICRC was the outcome of an arduously negotiated consensus; the text as a whole had achieved fairly general

support, but could very well be called in question if one of its fundamental provisions were amended. So when one National Society delegation suggested refraining from requesting any changes if the text were adopted as it stood, some 40 delegations from all over the world spontaneously supported this suggestion. The proposal was in fact enthusiastically adopted by all the delegations, thus proving the Movement's capacity for consensus and harmony at a time when its very existence was most seriously threatened. The plenary meeting that followed showed the same enthusiasm in confirming the decision.

The resolution submitted by the ICRC on the urgent question of respect for international humanitarian law and support for the ICRC's activities in situations of armed conflict will probably also benefit from the Conference's will to regain unity in striving towards a common goal. In the draft resolution, the International Committee had mentioned some fifteen armed conflicts in which it had little or no scope of intervention, particularly for the protection of prisoners of war. Other drafts referring to the same situations were submitted by various delegations.

Following protracted negotiations between government representatives, it was agreed to settle for a single resolution which no longer cited any country by name, but which emphasized the problems encountered by the ICRC in the course of its activities and appealed to all the parties to the conflicts mentioned in the reports on ICRC activities to respect fully their humanitarian commitments. Surprisingly enough for a resolution of this type, it was adopted by consensus without being put to the vote.

The Conference has many other achievements to its credit: they can be found in the approximately 30 resolutions which, it should be stressed, were adopted by consensus (see also pp. 340-388).

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* *

Admittedly the principle of universality was not respected at this Conference, since not all the States party to the Geneva Conventions were able to take part. After the decision reached by the Conference, the South African government notified the ICRC—which had not, however, taken part in the contentious vote—that its delegation in South Africa must suspend its activities (although this suspension did not in any way entail breaking off existing relations or cancelling the agreement between the South African Government and the ICRC).

Whilst there is every cause to be glad that the South African authorities finally reconsidered their position at the end of November and confirmed that the ICRC delegates could remain in South Africa and resume their activities there, the suspension of the South African government delegation to the Conference has nonetheless severely shaken the whole Red Cross structure based on the universality of the Fundamental Red Cross Principles and of humanitarian law.

Some delegates considered that despite their unanimous rejection of apartheid, the suspension of the South African government delegation cast in doubt the very meaning of such a Conference, namely to provide an opportunity for discussions between all governments bound by the Geneva Conventions, even—and especially—when they stand in violent opposition. Let us not forget that governments at war were all gathered together in the same conference hall.

Other delegates, on the other hand, felt that the fact that the International Conference was able to handle the very specific case of South Africa by maintaining the presence of the South African Red Cross, while suspending South Africa's government representatives marked its entry once and for all into the world of objective international reality and was a step forward towards more active protection of human dignity.

In short, opinions were divided between universality defeated and human rights triumphant. But perhaps it is hardly surprising that humanitarian concerns should one day come up against political considerations, at a time when the International Conference is a reflection of a society in turmoil the world over, prone to the constant clash of different sets of values. This is a problem well worth in-depth consideration.

Constructive lessons must now be drawn from the events that shook this Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, the outcome of which is by no means negative. It is up to the entire Movement to do so by being open to discussion and mutual understanding, resolved to maintain what makes it strong—its unity.

The Review

Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

Geneva, 23-31 October 1986

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross was held in Geneva from 23 to 31 October 1986. It was attended by delegations from 137 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 113 States party to the Geneva Conventions, as well as by many observers from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the process of formation and from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The International Conference was preceded, as from 14 October, by various Red Cross meetings, including the Executive Council and General Assembly of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and, on 22 October, the Council of Delegates.

OPENING CEREMONY

At the opening ceremony on 23 October, Mr. Kurt Bolliger, President of the Swiss Red Cross, which was hosting the Conference, gave a welcoming address to the delegates. He recalled that 85 years ago, in 1901, Henry Dunant had received the first Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian action. "It behoves us, particularly during this 'International Year of Peace', to do our utmost to show ourselves worthy of this heritage—not by making mere solemn appeals, nor by interceding in high-level politics, but through specific, daily humanitarian action which demands neither gratitude nor publicity", declared Mr. Bolliger.

Professor Jean Pictet, former Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and a key personality in several diplomatic conferences which have furthered the development of humanitarian law, gave a formal reading of the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross—Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. These Principles guide all the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In his address, *Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross*, emphasized the troubled climate of today's world with its wars, political tensions, social and economic inequalities and nuclear threat. He wondered whether international Red Cross organizations, after devoting so many years to alleviating human suffering, should not start focusing on prevention and tackle the problem at the roots. He noted also that prospects for peace had always existed. What was lacking was the dedication and determination to achieve it.

After reminding his audience that "frenzied competition" had brought the stockpile of armaments to unprecedented levels that could wipe out all human life within minutes, Dr. Abu-Goura launched a fervent appeal for action in favour of peace. Calling for a reawakening and a reassessing of priorities and needs, he declared: "We must unite our efforts. I appeal to all governments and organizations—governmental or non-governmental—to do their utmost to spare humanity such a destiny".

Dr. Abu-Goura concluded with the hope that one day mankind would enjoy lasting peace in a world free of worry, fear, distress and doubt.

The floor was then given to the *President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Alphons Egli*, who said how proud and delighted his country was to be hosting the Conference, whose special feature was that it was purely humanitarian, non-political and universal. While noting that all armed conflicts had political causes and consequences, Mr. Egli reminded his audience that sitting side by side at the Conference were representatives of countries engaged in active hostilities against each other, but that the object of the Conference was not to single out guilty parties or to denounce the actions of States. "On the contrary, it offers an area of quiet in the storm that enables all countries, including those locked in battle, to meet—not to argue about their differences, but to discuss the down-to-earth humanitarian problems they are up against. At the heart of the discussions is concern for the victims, men and women, and their distress and suffering", Mr. Egli declared.

Touching upon one of the main themes of the Conference, namely respect for international humanitarian law, the President of the Swiss Confederation said he was convinced that greater humanity and respect for humanitarian law tended to lessen tension and create a climate conducive to renewed dialogue and negotiation, and could contribute in a practical manner to re-establishing peace.

Mr. Egli concluded by saying that Switzerland's overriding hope was that the Conference would contribute to strengthening, spreading and unifying the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and mark an important step towards improved implementation of international humanitarian law. "Millions of men, women and children who are the

victims of conflicts, disasters, ill treatment and situations of distress throughout the world expect it of us", he said.

Mr. Christian Grobet, President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, recalled the close links between Geneva and the Red Cross. He hoped that the work of the Conference would be guided by the "spirit of Geneva" and that it would fulfil the expectations of the delegates and substantially further the development of international humanitarian law.

Speaking on behalf of the *Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization*, *Mr. Erik Suy, Director of the European Office*, emphasized the close co-operation between the UNO and the Red Cross, which both strived to achieve the same humanitarian goals. He recalled the United Nations' support for the ICRC's work when difficulties arose out of non-application of or non-compliance with international humanitarian law, and the close co-operation between the specialized agencies of the United Nations (such as WHO, UNICEF, FAO and UNDRO) and the Red Cross in emergency situations caused by conflicts or natural disasters.

Mr. Suy commented that all the challenges the international community had been facing over the past few years—whether violations of the existing international order or appalling disasters—had shown that actions of a single kind, however effective, were not enough to achieve the goals set and that complementarity of action and close collaboration were proving to be of infinite value. He called for even closer co-operation in order to meet these challenges and ensure that the humanitarian cause prevails.

The President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr Alexandre Hay, gave a broad outline of the development of the Red Cross Movement since the last International Conference held in Geneva in 1925, and the evolution of international humanitarian law over the same period and drew attention to the major progress achieved by each International Conference either for the Movement itself or for international humanitarian law:

- 1928: *The Hague*. Adoption of the first Statutes of the International Red Cross. The draft Convention protecting prisoners of war became a reality one year later in 1929.
- 1934: *Tokyo*. Presentation of the draft Convention protecting interned civilians or those in occupied territories. The outbreak of the Second World War prevented the formal adoption of the Convention.
- 1948: *Stockholm*. Presentation of the four draft Geneva Conventions, which were adopted in 1949.
- 1952: *Toronto*. Revision of the Statutes taking account of recent events.

- 1957: *New Delhi*. Draft regulations were proposed by the ICRC to afford better protection for civilians against the effects of hostilities.
- 1965: *Vienna*. Adoption of the “Fundamental Principles” which ensured the Movement’s cohesion and enabled it confidently to face a second century of existence.
- 1969: *Istanbul*. The Conference spoke for the first time of the application of the Fourth Convention in occupied territories and of respect for human rights.
- 1973: *Tehran*. Being brought up to date, humanitarian law now afforded better protection for civilians during fighting and was adapted to new forms of conflicts.
- 1977: *Bucharest*. By accepting the Report on the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross and by adopting by consensus the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace, the Movement provided itself with guidelines for the future.
- 1981: *Manila*. Respect for humanitarian law became an issue for the whole community of States as well as for the entire Movement.

“As the history of our Movement has shown”, the President continued, “it had been able to adapt itself to the changing realities of history without losing its essential elements. It has succeeded in keeping alive the flame of tradition while discarding the ashes. Faithful to its principles and faithful to the victims for whose sake it exists, it has been able to keep up with the times while avoiding politicization, to continue being useful while remaining true to itself, and to adapt to the ever-changing present without surrendering itself to passing trends.

“The broad outlines of the future are already apparent: in a world threatened by chaos where extreme standpoints are hardening, there is an essential role to be played by our world Movement founded on humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles of universal import. There is a role for a Movement capable of doing humanitarian work effectively, without discrimination, and in a spirit of peace to help all those who, both in time of war and in time of peace, expect from us that grain of human kindness which will restore their dignity.”

Mr. Enrique de la Mata, President of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said that the Federation, with its 144 members, represented universality and pluralism. Its recent meetings had tackled sensitive and controversial issues serenely; it had undertaken self-criticism and had searched for solutions in an honest and courageous way. Its determination to do so, he said, was one of its greatest strengths.

The League had also analysed changes which had occurred in recent years and their human consequences. Demographic growth was the source of numerous problems such as mass migration, with people clustering on

the outskirts of large cities, which suffered from highly inadequate health, education and nutritional facilities and were incapable of providing these people with any means of gainful employment or subsistence. The consequences of delinquency and drug abuse were also major threats to peaceful co-existence.

Mr. de la Mata, referring to the serious economic imbalance in the world, further emphasized the increasingly destructive power of the arms race and the continuous and endless spread of violence and conflict throughout the world.

"Together with all this violence", he continued "goes something we must denounce as still more dangerous, and that is the moral disarmament of modern society and the loss of mankind's noblest values, so that humanity is degraded and deprived of a code of values that it feels to be reliable and sure and that guide it in public and private life.

"This world, full of divisions, inequalities and dangers, is what we are going to hand down to the younger generation, to the young people now observing us sceptically and with some signs of fatigue—the fatigue of people who think they have already come back, whereas in actual fact they have not yet been anywhere. This is serious, for no country can forge ahead unless its young people are creative and idealistic. The younger generation will have to take its place in a society—our society, adult society—with which it feels no identity, perhaps because we are more interested in imposing our ways on them than in listening to them and being receptive to their lifestyle, their ways of self-expression. By acting in this way we are reproducing the already existing division between the developed countries and the young countries now developing with difficulty.

"The Red Cross and Red Crescent can be a symbol of hope, of a future that will be better and therefore more humane. Of a world, in short, continually evolving in a way that can transform noble ideals which, like that of peace, are universally accepted, into tangible facts of the everyday life of individuals and nations. That is really the important thing—to apply the idea of peace, meaning by peace a universal value that everyone wants, to the actual circumstances in which it flourishes and can be applied. In other words, we have to find within the narrow limits of human life and family life opportunities to behave in a way, and follow a cultural policy, that are conducive to peace".

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

FIRST PLENARY MEETING

The Conference held its first plenary meeting immediately after the opening ceremony. One minute of silence was observed in tribute to the recently deceased President of Mozambique, Mr. Samora Machel.

The meeting endorsed the proposals of the Council of Delegates and elected Mr. Kurt Bolliger, President of the Swiss Red Cross, to the chairmanship of the Conference by acclamation. The Vice-Chairmen of the Conference were Her Royal Highness Princess Helen Shah, President of the Nepal Red Cross, and Dr. Dimitri D. Venedictov, President of the Soviet Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Secretary-General of the Conference was Mr. Bénédict de Tscharner (Swiss Red Cross), assisted by Deputy Secretaries-General Mr. William Cassis and Mr. Jean-Louis Cayla.

The members of the Drafting Committee were also elected from among delegates from countries representing the three working languages of the Conference.

Point of order on South Africa

On behalf of the African group, a point of order was raised by the Kenyan government delegation requesting the suspension of the South African government delegation from the Twenty-fifth Conference. The Kenyan representative said that, by maintaining its policy of apartheid, the South African Government did not respect the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross or the provisions of humanitarian law. He made it clear that a decision to suspend the South African government delegation should not affect the South African National Red Cross Society.

During the lengthy debate that followed, some 40 delegations took the floor and unanimously condemned the practice of apartheid.

Although many delegations supported the Kenyan motion, there were others who expressed their objection to the suspension: the latter argued that, on the one hand, the Government in Pretoria had signed the Geneva Conventions and was therefore a rightful member of the Conference and, on the other, that the suspension would create a precedent likely to affect other countries in future. Since there was no legal basis for it in the Statutes

of the International Red Cross. These delegations also emphasized that the International Conference of the Red Cross was the only non-political and universal forum in the world today and that the suspension of the South African government delegation might harm the victims of apartheid and jeopardize the action of the Red Cross—in particular the work done by the ICRC—in South Africa at a time when it was vitally needed.

The delegations supporting the motion considered that the Conference had the supreme decision-making power and could therefore give a ruling on this point, even failing any relevant provision in the Statutes. Some of these delegations stated that, if the Conference did not comply with their proposals, it would be impossible for them to continue sitting in the same room as the representatives of a government upholding racist principles.

After a lengthy debate over the voting procedure, the motion was put to a roll-call vote and adopted by 159 votes in favour, 25 against and eight abstentions. Fifty-two delegations, including 47 National Societies, four government delegations and the ICRC, stated that they would not take part in the vote because they considered that suspending the South African government delegation was contrary to the Statutes of the International Red Cross and the Principles of the Movement.

When the votes were counted, the Chairman requested the South African government delegation to leave the room.

Some twenty delegations, some of them speaking on behalf of groups of countries, explained their votes. The delegates that had supported the Kenyan motion described the outcome of the vote as a “positive step forward in the long struggle to eradicate apartheid” and considered that the Movement should adapt to the changing world situation and that the decision marked a turning point in the Movement’s history.

The delegations who had opposed the motion or had not taken part in the voting based their stance on the illegal nature of the vote, which they considered violated the Statutes of the International Red Cross, the rules of the International Conference and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross. They also stressed the adverse effects that the decision would have on Red Cross activities, particularly ICRC activities in the field and, consequently, on the victims who were so badly in need of protection and assistance. Numerous delegations expressed their fears as to the difficulties that the South African Red Cross was liable to come up against in carrying out its tasks.

Generally speaking, these delegations greatly deplored the fact that political considerations had taken precedence over the rule of the Conference and the humanitarian considerations which should be the sole guide of the Red Cross.

The President of the ICRC then explained why the ICRC had not taken part in the voting. Recalling that the suspension of a State party to the Geneva Conventions and a rightful member of the Conference ran counter to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, Mr. Hay reiterated that the ICRC supported the universality of international humanitarian law and compliance with Conference rules and procedures. Mr. Hay went on to declare that the situation was not only without precedent in the Movement, but that it should not create a precedent. He urged delegates to look to the future and to start work without delay so that, despite all that had happened, the Twenty-fifth Conference might accomplish the task for which it had been convened.

A second motion was put forward to the meeting by several delegations proposing that the Conference be adjourned *sine die*. This motion was defeated in a secret ballot with 178 votes against, 52 in favour and five abstentions.

COMMISSION I:

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Commission (I) on international humanitarian law was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Alioune Sène, the Permanent Representative of Senegal at the Office of the United Nations at Geneva, assisted by two Vice-Presidents, Judge Darrell D. Jones, International Affairs Advisor of the Canadian Red Cross and Vice-President of the League, and Chief Justice Abdul Hamid, National Vice-Chairman of the Malaysian Red Crescent. The Rapporteur was Major Ali Hassan Quorshi, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Red Cross.

● Respect for international humanitarian law

Respect for international humanitarian law was the main topic of the work of the Commission, which first heard the President of the ICRC give a report on the ICRC's activities and the problems it has been faced with over the past five years.¹

The President, Mr. Hay, noted that "Not only are conflicts increasing in number and length, but practices prohibited by international humanitarian law are becoming more and more common: the taking of hostages

¹ The full text of the ICRC Report on its Activities will be published in the January-February 1987 issue of the *Review*.

and sometimes their subsequent murder, acts of terrorism, torture and other ill-treatment of detained persons, and people reported unaccountably missing; it has even reached the point where whole civilian populations are subjected to starvation for the purposes of war”.

Going on to refer specifically to violations of the Third Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, Mr. Hay emphasized that the authorities holding prisoners all too often did not give any notification of capture or refused to authorize the ICRC to visit prisoner-of-war camps, leaving tens of thousands of families in anguish and uncertainty.

Reminding the Assembly that all States party to the Geneva Conventions were under an obligation to respect and ensure respect for them, Mr. Hay cited a number of conflict situations of particular concern from the humanitarian point of view: indeed in some cases, despite the applicability of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC has been unable to discharge its mandate to protect victims, while in others it has been able to discharge this mandate only partially. With regard to these situations as a whole, Mr Hay considered it was “natural for the International Conference to concern itself with the ICRC’s possibilities of taking action” and support it in this respect.

In addition Mr. Hay mentioned the situations of internal disturbances and tensions in which the International Committee was encountering difficulties.

Finally, Mr. Hay pointed out that in all civilizations, cultures and political systems there were moral, religious, ideological, ethical and political principles which demanded respect for those who could not, or could no longer, fight and which granted such people humane treatment. “Humanitarian law is ultimately a warranty of mankind’s survival ... The protection of humanitarian values must be one of the priorities of States and of every man, and part of a collective strategy; it must be included in negotiations and international agreements and have the support of the public conscience”, concluded Mr. Hay, recalling the *Appeal for a humanitarian mobilization* launched by the ICRC on 10 January 1985. “The need for this appeal and for an effective response to it remains as acute today as when it was made. May this Conference strive to give such a response, tackling important issues with calmness, determination and lucidity, and aware of its responsibility towards future generations.”²

The Commission deplored the serious violations of international humanitarian law. It considered that Parties to a conflict who refuse to

² The text of the *ICRC Appeal for a humanitarian mobilization* was published in the January-February 1985 issue No. 244 of the *International Review of the Red Cross*, pp. 30-34.

obey humanitarian rules and principles should be urged to apply them immediately.

Finally the Commission adopted by consensus a resolution drafted by an *ad hoc* working party, in which the Conference expressed its grave concern at the difficulties encountered by the ICRC in its efforts to protect and assist all the military and civilian victims of armed conflicts. It appeals to all the Parties engaged in these conflicts to fully respect their obligations, as laid down by international humanitarian law, and to enable the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities.

Moreover, the resolution reminds all Parties to the Geneva Conventions that they are under an obligation to respect them and to ensure that they are respected in all circumstances.

● Additional Protocols

A report on signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions was submitted by the ICRC to the Commission. It mentioned the efforts undertaken by the ICRC to encourage States to ratify the Protocols and indicated that 65 States were bound by Protocol I, which is applicable in the event of international armed conflict, and 58 by Protocol II, which is applicable in the event of non-international armed conflict. In his statement (*the text of which is reproduced under the heading "ICRC", pp. 398-400*), Mr. Hay added that the fact that one third of the community of States had already duly undertaken to observe the new law of 1977 in the event of armed conflict was an encouraging result.

About ten of the delegations that took the floor announced that their governments were about to ratify the Protocols.

The Commission then adopted by consensus a resolution appealing to all States which were not yet Party to the Additional Protocols to consider acceding to them as quickly as possible. To this end, the resolution called on the ICRC to promote knowledge of these instruments, in accordance with its statutory mandate and in co-operation with the National Societies.

● Medical transport

The identification of medical transport in times of armed conflict is a subject currently assuming increasing importance. A resolution, which was adopted by consensus, invites governments to examine the proposals made by the *International Lifeboat Conference* with a view to improving the identification, marking and protection of rescue craft in times of armed conflict.

Moreover, the resolution approves the ICRC's plan to draw up, in consultation with governmental technical naval experts, a technical manual intended to facilitate the practical application of the Second Geneva Convention.

● **Dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law**

A report on the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law since the last International Conference (Manila, 1981) was submitted to the Commission jointly by the ICRC and the Secretariat of the League. Delegates were thus informed about the many activities being undertaken all over the world and for dissemination among the various target groups, as well as about the Third Programme of Action planned for the period 1986-1990. The duty of States to adopt laws or other measures to enforce humanitarian law at the national level was again emphasized. Three resolutions were adopted by consensus, dealing respectively with the dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement in the service of peace, national measures to implement international humanitarian law, and international courses on the law applicable in armed conflicts.

● **Torture**

Three resolutions were adopted by consensus on this subject. *The first* calls on governments, *inter alia*, to intensify their efforts to eliminate in practice all forms of torture and appeals to the League and National Societies to support all efforts, in particular those of the ICRC designed to prevent and eliminate torture. *The second* resolution requests National Societies to provide humanitarian, legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to victims of torture. *The third resolution* encourages governments, as well as the ICRC, National Societies and the League, to assist in making the United Nations' Voluntary Fund for victims of torture, as well as the existence of rehabilitation centres for their benefit, better known.

● **Conventional weapons**

The Commission adopted three resolutions on this subject, again by consensus. *The first* calls on governments to review the necessity and the possibility of updating the relevant texts of international humanitarian law

relating to sea warfare. It then urges those States which have not yet done so to accede to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons and to its protocols. Since several governments had expressed their concern at the development of new weapons technologies, the use of which under certain circumstances could be prohibited under existing law, the resolution encourages governments to co-ordinate their efforts to clarify the law in this domain. The ICRC was invited to keep the International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent informed.

The second resolution appeals to all Parties to armed conflicts to require their armed forces to strictly observe the rules and provisions of international humanitarian law concerning the protection of civilian population. It calls on the ICRC to intensify its efforts to improve and secure the protection of non-combatants, particularly in non-international conflicts or conflicts of a mixed nature, and encourages expanded use of protected zones for civilian populations.

The third resolution shows the Commission's concern about the fate of children in armed conflicts. It recalls the injunction of Article 77 of Protocol I, which requires that Parties to a conflict should refrain from making children under the age of fifteen years participate directly in hostilities, particularly by refraining from recruiting them into their armed forces, as well as the special protection from which these children continue to benefit, when they have fallen into the power of an adverse Party.

The resolution recommends, *inter alia*, that in all circumstances a respect for humanitarian principles should be fostered in children; it also invites governments and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to do their utmost to ensure that children who have participated in hostilities, whether directly or indirectly, are systematically rehabilitated to normal life; finally, it expresses the wish that the work undertaken by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights aimed at drawing up a Convention on the Rights of the Child should succeed in providing children involved in armed conflicts with protection at least the same as that accorded by the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols.

● Tracing and family reunification

Delegates next considered the problem of tracing and family reunification, after taking note of the report drawn up on the activities of the Central Tracing Agency on the one hand and on the tracing activities of the National Societies on the other. Four resolutions were adopted by consensus:

The first resolution concerns identification and transmission of personal data as a means of protecting and preventing disappearances:

- the Parties to an international armed conflict are urged to implement the provisions of the Conventions in this respect (the wearing of identity discs by members of the armed forces);
- National Information Bureaux should be set up in order to obtain and transmit information on prisoners of war and civilian detainees;
- the text further condemns any act leading to the forced or involuntary disappearance of individuals or groups of individuals, and urges governments to endeavour to prevent them.

The second asks States party to the Geneva Conventions to set up, in peacetime, National Information Bureaux, so that the latter may carry out their duties efficiently in times of armed conflict, and calls on the National Societies and the ICRC to provide their assistance in this domain.

The third resolution deals more particularly with refugees and separated families and recommends that National Societies intensify their contacts among themselves and with the ICRC with a view to rendering mutual assistance in the tracing of missing persons and the reuniting of dispersed families.

Finally *the fourth* underlines the specific mandate given to the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency (CTA), as a co-ordinator and technical adviser to National Societies and governments, and requests National Societies, with the support of their governments, to continue their efforts as members of the international tracing and family reunification network.

COMMISSION II: GENERAL COMMISSION

The revision of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and of the Rules of Procedure of the International Conference of the Red Cross constituted the main theme of the General Commission which was made up as follows: Chairman: Dr. Mario Villarroel, Vice-President of the League, President of the Venezuelan Red Cross; Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Leon Stubbings, Secretary General of the Australian Red Cross, and Mr. Dawit Zawde, Chairman of the Ethiopian Red Cross; Rapporteurs: Dr. Nezha-Nesh-Nash, member of the Central Committee of the Moroccan Red Crescent for the item concerning the Statutes, and Mr. Reszö Sztutich, Adviser to the President of the Hungarian Red Cross, for the other items.

● Statutes of the International Red Cross

Mrs. Stefa Spiljak, Co-Chairman of the League/ICRC Working Group entrusted with revising the Statutes of the International Red Cross, presented the changes contained in the draft text. This was the outcome of four years of work, notably a new title for the International Red Cross, which now becomes the *International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*, a formal mention of the role of the National Societies, and the inclusion of the Movement's commitment to promoting lasting peace.

The discussion which followed this presentation demonstrated the unified view of the members of the Movement, and the draft Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement were adopted by consensus and amidst applause.

● Financial matters

The Commission then adopted two resolutions on the financing of the ICRC by National Societies and governments and the report by the League on the financing of League programmes by governments through National Societies.

After renewing the mandates of the two League representatives on the Council for the Foundation of the ICRC, the Commission then accepted the updated regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund and an extension of the programmes it supports. The Fund, which will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year, has distributed Sw. fr. 1.3 million to 38 National Societies in the course of its existence.

● Emergency situations

ICRC and League policy in emergency situations was examined by the Commission, stress being laid on the nutritional aspects of relief activities, food aid and medical supplies in emergencies.

Delegates emphasized the need to design food-aid programmes in line with the victims' real needs and after a serious nutritional survey had been carried out.

They recommended taking advantage of nationally and internationally available food resources and obtaining food stocks from local markets or neighbouring countries for reasons of speed, suitability and economy.

Similarly the need was stressed to streamline the sending of medications and medical supplies. In view of the increasing numbers and scale of

emergency operations, full arrangements must be made to provide relief personnel with the necessary medicaments and to prevent these from being improperly administered by those who had no training in this sphere. Two resolutions were adopted with reference to this.

After adopting a report on ICRC relief operations, the Commission accepted three proposed amendments to the *Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief*, the aim of which is to strengthen measures for drawing up reports, especially financial reporting measures, and to ensure clear and precise accountability which is essential for the credibility of the Movement and for continuing confidence among contributors.

● Development of National Societies

The Commission adopted the report by the League on the development of the National Societies as a contribution to national development and a resolution requesting governments as well as all the members of the Movement to intensify their efforts in support of the development of the National Societies.

● The Movement and refugees

The Commission paid particular attention to the refugee problem, and delegates commented on the ICRC/League report submitted on this subject. This report dealt particularly with the main Red Cross and Red Crescent activities to help refugees, asylum seekers and displaced and repatriated persons. Special attention was devoted to the distressing problems of protecting refugee camps from military attacks.

From the discussions it clearly emerged that the ultimate solution in many cases was either voluntary repatriation, assimilation or relocation in a third country. Both the Movement and the international community as a whole are today being called upon to create conditions enabling refugees and displaced persons to maintain their human dignity, to enjoy adequate protection against elements that might seriously cause them harm and to acquire, as soon as possible, the means of building a new future.

A resolution adopted by the Commission also reaffirms the will of the Movement to assist the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its endeavours and pledges the continued support and enhanced collaboration of the Movement with the UNHCR.

● Voluntary service

Having noted a report by the League and the Henry Dunant Institute on voluntary service and on the conclusions of a study by the Henry Dunant Institute on that subject, the Commission approved by consensus a resolution which was a veritable “Red Cross and Red Crescent Voluntary Service Charter”. This resolution reaffirms the volunteer workers’ fundamental role in the Movement’s future and contains a score of recommendations addressed to National Societies, the League, the ICRC and governments encouraging voluntary service and dealing with many aspects of it.

● Report by the General Assembly of the League

The Secretary General of the League presented the report on the federation’s activities between 1981 and 1986 and particularly stressed the increase in emergency aid. The Commission was pleased that the League had decided to concentrate its programmes in the forthcoming years on developing National Societies. A draft resolution to increase *assistance to children during emergency situations* was unanimously adopted.

● National Society Statutes

The Commission took note of the Report of the Joint ICRC/League Commission on National Society Statutes. Sixteen National Societies had been recognized by the ICRC and admitted as League members since 1981. In accordance with its mandate, the Commission had also studied amendments which 37 National Societies had made to their statutes, and it had put forward appropriate recommendations in each case.

● Other points

The Commission then heard various statements on follow-up action to certain resolutions taken at the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross (Manila, 1981):

— *The role of medical personnel in the preparation and execution of Red Cross emergency medical actions*

A considerable effort has been made by the ICRC and the League to prepare training material for the medical personnel of National Societies.

Much remains to be done to use health experts' skills more efficiently in Red Cross relief operations.

— *International Year of the Disabled*

The ICRC set up a "Special fund for the Disabled" and, in co-operation with National Societies and governments, expanded many activities to help war amputees and paraplegics. In this connection a resolution on the contribution of the Movement to the UN Decade for Disabled Persons was adopted by consensus.

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Amongst other resolutions adopted by the Commission there is one calling for National Societies to make preparations for, and to participate in, *relief actions after technical disasters*. Similarly, another resolution urges governments, the League and National Societies to intensify their efforts to prevent *drug abuse* and draws special attention to social programmes to help in the rehabilitation of drug addicts, in co-operation with public and private institutions.

Regrettably, the Commission did not have time to examine the draft *Regulations on the use of the emblem by the National Societies*. This was a very important document for these National Societies and one on which there had already been very broad agreement within the Movement. It is to be hoped that this draft itself is already a source of inspiration for the National Societies.

LAST PLENARY SESSIONS

During the last two plenary meetings on 30 and 31 October, the Conference adopted by consensus the reports of both Commissions and 37 resolutions covering all aspects of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in time of peace and of war.¹ The Conference particularly emphasized the need to ensure full compliance with international humanitarian law by all the parties engaged in armed conflicts. The Conference moreover adopted the new Statutes of the International Red Cross, henceforth known as the

¹ The full text of the resolutions of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Council of Delegates appears on pages 340-393.

A booklet will be published containing the 37 resolutions adopted by the Conference at its final plenary meeting and the 7 resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and decided they would enter into force on 8 November 1986. This is the anniversary date of the publication, in 1862, of Henry Dunant's work, *A Memory of Solferino*, which gave rise both to the Geneva Conventions and to the Movement.

The Twenty-fifth Conference also elected the five members of the Standing Commission, who will be holding office with two ICRC representatives and two League representatives until the next International Conference. These new members are: Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordan), Botho Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Janos Hantos (Hungary), Mrs. Mavy Harmon (Brazil) and Mr. Byron Hove (Zimbabwe). The Standing Commission subsequently elected its new Chairman, Dr. Abu-Goura and Vice-Chairman, Botho Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein.

It was decided that the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent would be held in Cartagena (Colombia).

At the end of the last plenary meeting, the delegates to the Conference paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Hay, who will be retiring from the presidency of the ICRC during 1987.

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

The Council of Delegates, which is attended by representatives from the National Societies, the ICRC and the League, met on 22 October 1986 under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC.

The main topic discussed at the Council was the contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to peace. The Council took note of the report by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace on its activities since the 1985 Council of Delegates and its supplementary report on its latest discussions, including in particular the Commission's proposals for its future composition. The Council decided by consensus to accept the Commission's suggestion that its membership be increased by two.

Thus the total number of members on the Commission has been raised from 15 to 17: in addition to the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute, the two National Societies that organized the two World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences on Peace (Belgrade, 1975; Aaland and Stockholm, 1984), i.e. the Red Cross Societies of Yugoslavia and Sweden, have become *ex officio* members of the Commission. (Since the Finnish Red Cross was the co-organizer of the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace, it will alternate with Sweden, at the request of the Swedish Red Cross, as an *ex officio* member). In conformity with Decision No. 1 of the 1985 Council of Delegates, the term of office of six National Societies was renewed; these are the National Societies of Australia, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Indonesia and Mauritania. The six new Societies are those of Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic.

The deliberations of the Council of Delegates gave rise to numerous themes for the Commission to study, in particular the establishment of a Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Prize or Medal, the importance of educating young people to be peace orientated, the option of alternating the chairmanship of the Commission between the ICRC and the League, the possibility of convening a third World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace and, last but not least, ideas on a World Red Cross and Red Crescent Peace Day. The Commission will submit an interim report on these and other proposals to the Council of Delegates in 1987 and a final report in 1989.

The Council of Delegates also adopted three resolutions by consensus on the contribution of the Movement to peace.

When informed of the retirement of Mr. Harald Huber, Chairman of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, the Council of Delegates thanked him for having greatly contributed to the Commission's success. Mr. Alexandre Hay will take Mr. Huber's place when he ceases to be President of the ICRC.

The report on the 1985-86 activities of the Henry Dunant Institute was presented by Mr. Maurice Aubert, President of the Institute and Vice-President of the ICRC. He also announced the appointment of Mr. Jean Hoefliger by the Institute's Assembly to the post of Director; at present Mr. Hoefliger is the ICRC's Delegate-General for the Middle East. Many National Societies expressed their thanks to the team which has guided the Henry Dunant Institute in recent years, and in particular to Mr. Jacques Meurant, its former Director. In addition they emphasized the significant role which the Henry Dunant Institute plays and must continue to play within the Movement as an instrument for research, training, documentation and exchanges of news and views on the activities and principles of the Movement, international humanitarian law and the development of National Societies.

The Council of Delegates adopted a resolution by consensus on the future activities of the Henry Dunant Institute.

Lastly, the ICRC's Report on Funds and Medals (award of the Florence Nightingale Medal, state of the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund and the Augusta Fund, Report by the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC) was approved by the Council.

Resolutions of the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

(adopted at the final plenary meeting on 31 October 1986)

I

Respect for international humanitarian law in armed conflicts and action by the ICRC for persons protected by the Geneva Conventions

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the ICRC's Annual Reports since 1981, the five-year report covering 1981 to 1985 and the half-yearly report for 1986 presented to the Conference by the ICRC *and having heard* the report on respect for international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, delivered by the President of the ICRC,

observing with concern the increase in the number of ongoing armed conflicts and the very long duration of several of the conflicts,

having taken note of the report of the President of the ICRC, particularly of the difficulties encountered by the ICRC in its efforts to protect and assist military and civilian victims of armed conflicts,

observing that the violations of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions in several of these armed conflicts seriously impede the humanitarian work of the ICRC and thus worsen the plight of the victims,

deploring the indiscriminate attacks inflicted on civilian populations, the use of prohibited weapons such as chemical weapons, the forceful displacement of civilian populations by occupation troops and the destruction of civilian housing in violation of the laws and customs of war,

noting a disturbing decline in respect for international humanitarian law, particularly as regards the treatment of prisoners of war, civilian internees and other persons captured in armed conflicts, and as regards the conduct of hostilities and the treatment of civilian populations in violation of the laws and customs of war,

recalling Resolution III of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross which reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Arab occupied territories in the Middle East in 1967,

deeply concerned at the difficulties created for the ICRC in its efforts to protect and assist all the military and civilian victims of armed conflicts, including during the carrying out of relief operations,

1. *regrets* that disputes about the legal classification of conflicts too often hinder the implementation of international humanitarian law and the ICRC's work,
2. *appeals* to all Parties involved in armed conflicts to fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and to enable the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities,
3. *appeals* in particular to all such Parties to grant regular access to the ICRC to all prisoners in armed conflicts covered by international humanitarian law and to carry out the early repatriation by phases of prisoners of war in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and further beyond its provisions as might be acceptable in the interest of humanitarian considerations,
4. *also appeals* to Parties to the Geneva Conventions to fully carry out their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and to enable the ICRC to fulfil its humanitarian tasks in that context,
5. *reminds* all Parties to the Geneva Conventions of their common obligation to respect and ensure respect for those Conventions in all circumstances, *and invites* them to support the ICRC in carrying out its humanitarian activities,

6. *expresses its conviction* that the strict application of the Geneva Conventions could contribute to the peaceful settlement of conflicts,

7. *invites* the ICRC to inform all Parties to the Geneva Conventions, in accordance with the ICRC rules of confidentiality, of the progress made in the respect for and application of international humanitarian law.

II

The Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution VII adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having examined the ICRC report on signatures, ratifications and accessions to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, adopted by consensus on 8 June 1977 at the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva,

confirming the interest of the International Conference in the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts,

mindful of the need for consolidating and implementing the existing body of international humanitarian law and for the universal acceptance of such law,

particularly mindful of the need to protect the civilian population against the effects of hostilities and of the role of the ICRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and civil defence organizations in this respect,

1. *appreciates* the virtually universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949,

2. *notes*, however, the fact that so far a more limited number of States have become Parties to the two Additional Protocols,

3. *appeals* to all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 to consider becoming Party also to the Additional Protocols at the earliest possible date,
4. *calls upon* all States becoming Parties to Protocol I to consider making the declaration provided for under Article 90 of that Protocol,
5. *requests* the ICRC, within its statutory mandate and in co-operation with National Societies, to promote knowledge of the Additional Protocols for the purpose of realizing the above objectives.

III

Identification of medical transports

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing the need for continuous efforts to ensure that the means of identification and signalling of medical personnel, units and transport keep pace with technical advances,

noting with satisfaction the actions taken, following Resolution VIII of the Twenty-fourth Conference, by the competent international bodies, namely ITU, IMO and ICAO,

recalling amongst others the principles laid down in the Second Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, for the amelioration of the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea and, in particular, Article 43 of the Convention,

aware of the possibilities of technological developments to enhance protection,

1. *notes* the report by the ICRC concerning the actions taken pursuant to Resolution VIII of the Twenty-fourth Conference,
2. *stresses* the need for an expert approach, taking full advantage of technological developments, within the limits of the Second Geneva Convention,

3. *invites* governments to consider the proposals made by the International Lifeboat Conference,

4. *welcomes* the ICRC initiative to consider the possibility of drawing up, in consultation with governmental technical naval experts, a technical manual intended to facilitate the practical application of the Second Geneva Convention, *and invites* governments to co-operate with the ICRC to this end,

5. *requests* the ICRC to follow up these matters and report to the Twenty-sixth Conference.

IV

Dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement in the service of peace

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolutions X and XI of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross and the resolutions of the previous International Conferences, as well as the *Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace* of the World Red Cross Conference on Peace (Belgrade, 1975), as adopted in 1977 and the conclusions of the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace (Åland and Stockholm, 1984),

noting with satisfaction that the ICRC, the League and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have accomplished new progress in the field of dissemination of international humanitarian law and the principles and ideals of the Movement, in compliance with the *Second Programme of Action with respect to dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Red Cross (1982-1985)*,

noting that joint committees, composed of the appropriate ministries and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with the purpose of developing dissemination activities, as recommended by Resolution X of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross, have been set up in only a limited number of countries,

aware that, by its humanitarian work and the dissemination of its ideals, the Movement promotes a lasting peace, which is not simply the absence of war, but is a dynamic process of co-operation among all States and peoples; co-operation founded on respect for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality, human rights, as well as on a fair and equitable distribution of resources to meet the needs of peoples,

mindful that, according to Articles 47, 48, 127 and 144 of the First, Second, Third and Fourth 1949 Geneva Conventions respectively and to Articles 83 and 19 of the 1977 Protocols I and II respectively, States Parties have committed themselves to disseminate these treaties as widely as possible,

1. *takes note with satisfaction* of the joint ICRC/League report on the dissemination activities on international, regional and national levels,
2. *requests* governments within their competence to continue the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and other agreements containing rules of international humanitarian law applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts, not only within the armed forces but also within government circles, universities, schools, the medical profession, the general public and the mass media,
3. *recalls* Resolution X of the Twenty-fourth International Conference urging governments to set up joint committees representing appropriate ministries and National Societies for the development of dissemination activities,
4. *invites* the whole International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to persevere in its activities of dissemination of international humanitarian law in various circles and to support the efforts of governments to that purpose,
5. *urges* National Societies to continue and to develop, in co-operation with the ICRC and the League, the activities of dissemination of international humanitarian law on the national, regional and international levels through meetings, courses and seminars,
6. *invites* National Societies, in co-operation with the ICRC and the League and with the due assistance of the Henry Dunant Institute, to appoint and train experts who will be permanently in charge of dissemination and to co-operate with national authorities, in particular the joint committees on dissemination,

7. *accepts the Third Programme of Action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with respect to dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Movement (1986-1990), as modified,*

8. *requests the ICRC and the League to submit a joint report to the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on international, regional and national dissemination activities, including the follow-up to the Programme of Action, as well as a comprehensive compendium of reports prepared by the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.*

V

National measures to implement international humanitarian law

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

conscious of the fact that the Parties to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols have undertaken to respect and also to ensure respect for these instruments in all circumstances,

recalling the duty of the States Parties to communicate to one another, through the depository and, during hostilities, through the Protecting Powers, the official translations of the Conventions and the Additional Protocols, as well as the laws and regulations they may adopt to ensure their application,

*having examined the document presented by the ICRC on *Respect for international humanitarian law—National measures to implement the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in peacetime,**

reaffirming that the very applicability of international humanitarian law depends largely upon the adoption of appropriate national legislation,

1. *urges the governments of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions and, as the case may be, to the Additional Protocols to fulfil entirely their*

obligation to adopt or supplement the relevant national legislation, as well as to inform one another, as stated above, of the measures taken or under consideration for this purpose,

2. *invites* National Societies to assist and co-operate with their own governments in fulfilling their obligation in this respect,

3. *appeals* to governments and National Societies to give the ICRC their full support and the information to enable it to follow up the progress achieved in legislative and other measures taken for the implementation of international humanitarian law,

4. *requests* the ICRC to gather and assess the said information and to report regularly to the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on the follow-up to the present resolution.

VI

International courses on law applicable in armed conflicts

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that the States Parties to the Geneva Conventions have the duty of disseminating as widely as possible the provisions of these treaties and the other rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts, particularly among their respective armed forces,

considering also that many members of the armed forces still have little or no knowledge of the Conventions and other rules,

noting with satisfaction the efforts already made by the ICRC to help the competent national authorities to train officers responsible for providing instruction, within their respective national armed forces, on the Geneva Conventions and the other rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts,

noting the need for the ICRC to continue supporting States with a view to enabling them to meet their obligation, under the Conventions, to disseminate and thereby help to ensure respect for the Conventions and other rules,

1. *invites* the competent national authorities to step up their efforts systematically to include the teaching of the Geneva Conventions and the other rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts in programmes of military instruction,
2. *encourages* the ICRC to continue organizing and/or sponsoring, on a regular basis, international courses on the Conventions and other rules for members of the armed forces, such as the courses organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo,
3. *recommends* the ICRC to adapt the programmes of these international courses to the respective needs of jurists who have to interpret the above-mentioned rules, and of other commanding officers and senior staff officers of various military academies and military units,
4. *encourages* all States to send armed forces jurists and officers to the international courses organized either by the ICRC or under its patronage,
5. *recommends* that all States organize such courses on a systematic and continuous basis in their national military institutions, bearing in mind the international courses which are given in this field, to achieve some standardization of the teaching of the Conventions and other rules on an international scale.

VII

Work on international humanitarian law in armed conflicts at sea and on land

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling the general principle of the protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities, the principle of international law that the right of the Parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, and the principle that prohibits the employment in armed conflicts of weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering,

underlining that these principles are a fundamental part of the law in this field which has been continuously reaffirmed, clarified and developed,

recalling the adoption by a United Nations Conference, on 10 October 1980, of a Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects and of its annexed Protocols,

recalling also Resolution IX of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that the international humanitarian law of sea warfare and land warfare could be clarified to facilitate the implementation of the principles referred to above and increase the respect for international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts in general,

believing that further efforts as to the reaffirmation, clarification and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts should be considered in areas relating to sea and land warfare, without prejudice to the need for further specific regulations later on,

A

1. *notes* the fact that international humanitarian law relating to land warfare to a large extent has been reaffirmed and developed and that some areas of international humanitarian law relating to sea warfare are in need of reaffirmation and clarification on the basis of existing fundamental principles of international humanitarian law,
2. *notes* the contribution and activities of, *inter alia*, the United Nations in this field *and stresses* relevant parts of the reports of the United Nations on this subject,
3. *appeals* therefore to governments to co-ordinate their efforts in appropriate fora in order to review the necessity and the possibility of updating the relevant texts of international humanitarian law relating to sea warfare,
4. *invites* the ICRC to follow these matters and to keep the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent informed;

B

1. *notes* that, although international humanitarian law relating to land warfare has been subject to recent review, a number of issues need the continued attention of the international community,

2. *urges* all States that have not yet done so to exert their best endeavours to become Parties to the 1980 above-mentioned Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto as early as possible so as ultimately to obtain universality of adherence,

3. *notes* that, under Article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened, *inter alia*:

- to consider amendments to the Convention or any of the annexed Protocols,
- to consider additional protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing annexed Protocols,
- or to review the scope and operation of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to consider any proposal for amendments to the Convention or to the existing Protocols,

4. *notes with satisfaction* the adoption by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross in 1981 of a resolution on conventional weapons, in particular on small-calibre weapons, *and also notes* the value of further work in this field,

5. *notes* the dangers to civilians caused by mines, booby-traps and other devices employed during an armed conflict and the need for international co-operation in this field consistent with Article 9 of Protocol II attached to the 1980 Convention,

6. *notes* that some governments have voiced their concern about the development of new weapons technologies the use of which, in certain circumstances, could be prohibited under existing international law,

7. *appeals* to governments, with a view to meeting the standards laid down in international humanitarian law, to co-ordinate their efforts to clarify the law in these fields and exercise the utmost care in the development of new weapons technologies,

8. *invites* the ICRC to follow these matters and to keep the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent informed.

VIII

Protection of the civilian population in armed conflicts

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

deeply alarmed by the reports on the activities of the ICRC covering the period 1981 to 1986,

noting that during this period the Movement has had to intervene in more than thirty armed conflicts,

noting further that most of these conflicts have been of a non-international or mixed character, only covered in part by existing international humanitarian law,

alarmed by the magnitude of the acts of unnecessary cruelty committed during these conflicts, often against innocent civilians,

noting that reprisal attacks not limited to military objects have been carried out in several armed conflicts,

deeply concerned by information that prohibited weapons, including chemical weapons, have been used in some conflicts,

recalling the many previous resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross for the protection of the civilian population against indiscriminate warfare and against the use of certain weapons,

1. *appeals* to all States which have not yet done so to consider becoming Parties to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons of 1980, which both improve the protection of civilian population in armed conflicts,

2. *appeals* to all Parties to armed conflicts to require of their armed forces to strictly observe international humanitarian law and rules with regard to the protection of the civilian population,

3. *recommends* a universal campaign to make known to all, not only to the armed forces, but to the civilians, the rights of the latter according to international law,
4. *requests* the ICRC to intensify its efforts to improve and secure the protection of non-combatants in non-international or mixed armed conflicts,
5. *encourages* an expanded use of protective zones in all armed conflicts,
6. *recommends* also that measures be taken to facilitate the use of modern telecommunication and rapid response systems as a means of protecting groups at risk.

IX

Protection of children in armed conflicts

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XIII of the Sixteenth International Conference of the Red Cross concerning the protection of women and children in armed conflicts,

having taken note of the *Final Document* of the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace in Aaland and Stockholm in 1984, and of the recommendations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Symposium, held in San Remo in 1985, on the protection of children,

deeply concerned that in many parts of the world children continue to take a direct part in hostilities and are recruited into the armed forces,

recalling that, in conflicts where weapons are used indiscriminately, a significant proportion of victims are innocent civilians and especially children,

noting that children are especially vulnerable when they are separated from their families,

recognizing that children who have been trained to hate and have participated in atrocities of war are often mentally and morally crippled for life,

stressing that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols of 1977 accord to children special protection and treatment,

1. *requests* governments and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to disseminate widely the provisions of international humanitarian law protecting children in armed conflicts, as well as publications concerning this question,

2. *recalls* that, in accordance with Article 77 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, "the Parties to the conflict shall take all feasible measures in order that children who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities and, in particular, they shall refrain from recruiting them into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, the Parties to the conflict shall endeavour to give priority to those who are oldest",

3. *recalls* also that, according to the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols, children under the age of 15 years who have taken direct part in hostilities and fall into the power of an adverse Party continue to benefit from special protection, whether or not they are prisoners of war,

4. *expresses its deep concern* that children under the age of 15 years are trained for military combat *and recommends* that in all circumstances children should be educated to respect humanitarian principles,

5. *recommends* that, according to the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols, all necessary measures be taken to preserve the unity of the family and to facilitate the reuniting of families,

6. *invites* governments and the Movement to do their utmost to ensure that children who have taken part, directly or indirectly, in hostilities are systematically rehabilitated to normal life,

7. *expresses its support* for the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights regarding the drafting of a Convention on the Rights of the Child *and stresses* that the protection accorded by the new Convention should be at least the same as that accorded by the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols.

X

Torture

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

deeply concerned with the increasing use of torture in the world,

noting with profound disquiet the development of ever more sophisticated methods of physical and psychological torture which inflict on victims suffering that at times does not leave any visible trace,

emphasizing that torture is a practice which not only injures the physical and moral integrity of its immediate victims but also harms their families and the entire society in which it occurs, and that it casts the greatest discredit on those responsible for it and on States which authorize it, condone it, or are party to it,

recalling Resolution XIV on torture of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling also that that resolution requested the United Nations Organization to expedite the adoption of an international Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

1. *welcomes with satisfaction* the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 10 December 1984, of the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, *and invites* States to ratify it,

2. *encourages* States and intergovernmental regional organizations to undertake or continue to work according to their rules and practices with a view to drawing up regional conventions against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, providing efficient supervisory mechanisms,

3. *requests* governments to continue and to intensify their efforts aimed at achieving, in addition to formal prohibitions, the actual elimination of all forms of torture,

4. *appeals* to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as to the League to continue and to develop their action to enhance public awareness of and support for the struggle against torture, and to support all efforts, in particular those of the ICRC, designed to prevent and eliminate torture.

XI

Assistance to victims of torture

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolutions XIV and XV of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on torture and assistance to victims of torture,

considering the experience gained from rehabilitation activities in a number of countries, such as humanitarian, legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to victims of torture,

urges National Societies, to take the initiative to give, either independently or in co-operation with their governments, humanitarian, legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to victims of torture in exile and, whenever possible, in their own countries.

XII

Assistance to victims of torture

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XIV on torture adopted by the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross in which all forms of torture were condemned, governments and appropriate international organizations were urged to do their utmost to eliminate such practices, and Red Cross organizations were called on to co-operate in the realization of this objective,

recalling Resolution XV on assistance to victims of torture adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross which wel-

comed “current efforts within the United Nations to establish a Voluntary Fund for the victims of torture, enabling the fund, through established channels of humanitarian assistance, to extend humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose fundamental rights have been severely violated as a result of torture and to relatives of such victims”, and urged “governments to consider responding favourably to requests for contributions to such a fund”,

welcoming the establishment in December 1981 in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 36/151 of the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture and the authorization of the Board of Trustees of the Fund to promote and solicit contributions and pledges,

taking note of the recent information provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the activities of the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture,

noting with satisfaction that rehabilitation centres for torture victims have been established and their important role in providing assistance to victims of torture,

expressing its gratitude and appreciation to those who have contributed to the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture and to the rehabilitation centres for torture victims,

1. *appeals* to governments in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for further contributions to the United Nations’ Voluntary Fund for victims of torture,
2. *requests* the ICRC and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the League, to assist in making the Voluntary Fund and the existence of rehabilitation centres for torture victims better known.

XIII

Obtaining and transmitting personal data as a means of protection and of preventing disappearances

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.

recalling the principle by which families have the right to know the fate of their members, as laid down in particular in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977,

deeply moved by the suffering caused to families when one of their members disappears, whether it is a question of unidentified servicemen on the battlefield, prisoners of war and civilian internees whose names have not been registered and transmitted, civilians who have been arrested, imprisoned or otherwise confined without their families being informed,

recalling Resolution I of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on the wearing of identity discs, and the relevant articles in the Geneva Conventions (First Convention, Art. 16 and 17; Second Convention, Art. 19 and 20),

recalling the articles of the Geneva Conventions (Third Convention, Art. 122; Fourth Convention, Art. 136), requiring each Party to a conflict to set up a National Information Bureau (NIB),

recalling Resolution II of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on forced or involuntary disappearances,

1. *urges* the Parties to every international armed conflict to implement the provisions of Articles 16 and 17 of the First Geneva Convention, prescribing the wearing of identity discs by members of the armed forces, in order to facilitate the identification of the wounded and the dead and the forwarding of information concerning them to the Power on which they depend,
2. *stresses* the importance of establishing a National Information Bureau *and points out* that to do so governments which so wish may receive technical advice from the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the ICRC, in particular concerning preparatory steps to be taken in peacetime,
3. *condemns* any act leading to the forced or involuntary disappearance of individuals or groups of individuals, *and urges* governments to endeavour to prevent them.

XIV

National Information Bureau (NIB)

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

mindful that the Geneva Conventions help to ensure protection for

prisoners of war and for civilians during armed conflicts through the establishment of National Information Bureaux (Third Convention, Art. 122; Fourth Convention, Art. 136),

noting the obligation of States Parties to the Conventions to institute such Bureaux,

considering the National Information Bureaux to be one of the most effective means of protecting victims of armed conflicts,

1. *urges* States Parties to the Conventions to consider taking such measures as may be necessary to institute their National Information Bureau in peacetime in order for it to fulfil its tasks as soon as possible at the outbreak of an armed conflict,
2. *further recommends* that States Parties to the Conventions invite their Red Cross or Red Crescent Society as well as the ICRC to lend such assistance needed to establish the National Information Bureau.

XV

Co-operation between National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and governments in the reuniting of dispersed families

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

considering that, as a result of continuing international and non-international armed conflicts and political tension, a large number of persons have been separated from their families,

recalling and reaffirming Resolutions XX, XX and XIX respectively of the Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth International Conferences of the Red Cross,

aware that not all of the dispersed families for whom the aforementioned resolutions were intended to afford assistance have yet been reunited in accordance with their wishes,

considering that there are also many people who, despite possessing an entry permit, are denied the right to emigrate to the country of their choice for purposes of family reunification,

conscious of the large number of refugees and deportees in many parts of the world and of the great suffering deriving from the separation of persons from their countries and families for reasons no longer always attributable to the Second World War or its aftermath as well as from uncertainty concerning the fate of family members,

expressing its gratitude to governments, the ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the successful co-operation that has hitherto taken place,

1. *reaffirms* the constant willingness of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to co-operate in humanitarian action, in reuniting members of dispersed families, in exchanging information regarding families and in facilitating the search for missing persons,
2. *calls upon* all governments to support the efforts of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies dealing with the problems of conducting searches and reuniting families,
3. *requests* governments to treat in a favourable and humanitarian manner the applications of persons who wish to leave the country and to be reunited with members of their families in a receiving State, which has declared its willingness to accept them, to give due and sympathetic consideration to such applications and to decide on them swiftly and in a humanitarian spirit, ensuring that no application receives unfair or discriminatory treatment,
4. *urges* the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to act as neutral intermediaries with their respective governments with a view to helping to solve these humanitarian problems,
5. *recommends* that the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies intensify their contacts and discussions among themselves and with the ICRC with a view to rendering mutual assistance in the reuniting of dispersed families, thereby helping to foster understanding and peace.

XVI

The role of the Central Tracing Agency and National Societies in tracing activities and the reuniting of families

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

acknowledging the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's responsibility in helping to re-establish or maintain contact between members of families separated as a consequence of armed conflicts, tensions or natural disasters,

recalling the role which the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) of the ICRC plays as a co-ordinator and technical adviser to National Societies and governments, as defined in the report presented by the ICRC and the League and adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting that progress in this area has already been made throughout the Movement,

noting furthermore the steady increase throughout the world of situations resulting in mass movements of people and loss of any contact between family members,

recognizing that, in order to take effective action, the Movement must be able to rely on a sound network composed of all the National Societies' tracing services and the CTA, in liaison, when necessary, with the League Secretariat,

1. *emphasizes* the mandate entrusted to the CTA by the Twenty-fourth Conference, *congratulates* it on the initiatives already taken *and encourages* it to continue its efforts to co-ordinate activities, to harmonize operating principles and working methods, and to train responsible tracing personnel,
2. *congratulates* National Societies which have worked towards reuniting separated families *and calls on* them to pursue their efforts,
3. *requests* all National Societies to carry out to the best of their capacity the role which they are called upon to play as components of the international network for tracing and reuniting families,

4. *asks* governments to facilitate the work of the Movement in this domain by giving it all necessary support.

XVII

The Movement and refugees

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XXI and the accompanying statement of policy on International Red Cross aid to refugees, adopted by the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

conscious that the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons has steadily grown over the past five years, creating even greater requirements for humanitarian aid, especially among the most vulnerable groups (women who are alone or who are heads of families, unaccompanied children, the physically and mentally handicapped, and the elderly),

recognizing that movements of refugees will continue until their causes are eliminated,

welcoming the initiative taken by the 36th session of the United Nations General Assembly to establish the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees (United Nations Document A/41/324 of 13 May 1986) *and noting* the action being taken on this issue at the 41st session of the General Assembly,

recognizing that persons displaced within their own country do not always benefit from the protection and assistance with which the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is at all times willing to provide them,

sharing the concerns expressed by the 37th session of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Executive Committee that military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements continue, since such attacks claim many victims particularly among women, children and the elderly in such camps and settlements as well as among the host population,

recalling the primary function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the field of international protection of and material assistance to refugees, and in the search for lasting solutions,

1. *calls upon* States, in the search for lasting solutions, to address first and foremost the causes of movements of refugees from their countries of origin,
2. *invites* governments and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to pursue their efforts in disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement to ensure greater respect for the human person,
3. *encourages* the Movement both to step up its own information and training activities and to take a greater part in providing information aimed at better understanding and mutual acceptance between refugees and their host communities,
4. *urges* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to spare no effort to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers receive humane treatment and decent material conditions in host countries,
5. *reminds* governments, in a spirit of humanity, of their legal and moral obligations regarding refugees, in particular that of respect for the principle of non-refoulement, *and encourages them* to do everything possible to accelerate the procedures for consideration of asylum applications while maintaining fundamental legal safeguards,
6. *requests* governments to permit the Movement to come to the aid of persons without any other suitable protection or assistance, as in certain cases where persons are displaced within their own country,
7. *calls upon* governments to continue their efforts to find in the near future a solution to the problem of military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements, in accordance with the conclusion of the 37th session of the UNHCR Executive Committee, *and reaffirms* the willingness of the Movement to assist in this endeavour,
8. *asks* governments, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, National Societies, and non-governmental organizations to give special attention to the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, particularly the most vulnerable groups, *and encourages*

them vigorously to pursue appropriate lasting solutions, within the competence of the UNHCR,

9. *pledges* the continued support and enhanced collaboration of the Movement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

XVIII

Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

aware that the physical and mental health of victims is affected by any emergency,

recalling that malnutrition is often one of the major problems identified during health assessments following emergencies,

recognizing that, since the factors which affect nutrition are many and complex and food distribution alone is not always the most appropriate response to nutritional problems, a professional approach is essential,

recognizing further that maximum advantage must be derived from available manpower and resources,

1. *recommends* that all Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional programmes be integrated into the general health programme adapted specifically to each emergency operation,

2. *recommends* that any Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional response, including food distribution, be undertaken within the framework of a clearly established Red Cross and Red Crescent nutritional programme which is effectively planned, monitored and evaluated,

3. *urges* that all nutritional programmes of the ICRC, the League and National Societies be developed in accordance with the *Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations* and be established under the guidance of nutritionists,

4. *recommends* that each government participating in food distribution and other nutritional activities through ICRC/League emergency operations, or on a bilateral basis with a National Society, take full account of the *Nutrition and food donation policy in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations*.

XIX

Medical supplies in Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency operations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

aware that the physical and mental health of victims is affected by any emergency,

recognizing that in relief operations health personnel must have the appropriate medicaments and medical supplies at their disposal when they are needed, in order to provide efficient assistance to victims,

recalling that, especially in relief operations, medicaments and medical supplies may be dangerous if used by other than qualified health personnel,

being anxious to avoid misuse of medicaments and to obtain the maximum results from relief operations with limited financial and manpower resources,

1. *recommends* that each National Society and government wishing to participate in ICRC or League relief operations requiring medical relief supplies should limit their gifts to the needs identified by the ICRC or League in prior consultation with those organizations,

2. *recommends* that any gift of medicaments or medical supplies to an ICRC or League relief operation should be in accordance with guidelines issued by the ICRC and the League, under the supervision of qualified health personnel and in conformity with the recipient country's drug policy, if any,

3. *recommends* that National Societies and governments participating in Red Cross and Red Crescent relief operations should use the *WHO Standard list of drugs and clinic equipment* for League operations and the *ICRC Standard list of medicaments and medical material* for ICRC operations,
4. *recommends* that all medicaments and medical supplies provided through the ICRC or the League should be packed and labelled in accordance with the guidelines issued by the ICRC or the League, depending upon the character of the operation.

XX

Assistance to children in emergency situations

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

noting with satisfaction the progress of the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, while drawing governments' attention to the fact that it is essential for that work to result in provisions granting protection comparable to and, if possible, greater than existing international instruments,

being conscious of the major challenge that the plight of children in emergency situations, whether accompanied or not, represents to governments, National Societies and other relief agencies,

deeply worried about the security of unaccompanied children, especially in emergencies,

recognizing that children during emergency situations have the right of access to parental or family care to the greatest possible extent, *and stressing* the need for governments, National Societies and other relief agencies to take the necessary steps to ensure this,

1. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies especially to take care of children when emergency situations occur, and to protect them from all forms of physical and mental injury or abuse,

2. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to combat the illicit international transfer and non-return of children,
3. *urges* governments, National Societies, the League, the ICRC and other relief agencies to take appropriate measures to identify unaccompanied minors as soon as possible, establish and maintain an individual file and ensure that tracing efforts are made with a view to family reuniting,
4. *recommends* governments and National Societies to take appropriate steps for the successful rehabilitation of children who have been victims of emergencies,
5. *asks* governments and National Societies to report to the next International Conference on the measures taken to assist children in emergency situations.

XXI

Disaster relief in case of technical and other disasters

The Twenty-fifth International Red Cross Conference,

recognizing that technological developments in many areas constantly progress and that many States carry out nuclear activities,

being aware that in the development and application of existing and new technologies it cannot be totally excluded that at any time technical incidents can turn suddenly into serious accidents and disasters, which directly endanger the health and life of a great number of people,

recognizing that damaging situations of this kind can also occur below the threshold of disaster, which require immediate and preventive action on the part of all agencies called upon to help,

knowing that the effects of such serious accidents and disasters can—independently of where they occurred in one State—spread to the territory of other States,

being aware that these kinds of accidents and disasters require special and additional measures of prevention, assistance and mutual information

and support, which must be planned and carried out both by States and by international organizations,

expressing the wish that to this end international co-operation may be reinforced and intensified,

acknowledging the fact that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is more especially obliged to provide mutual assistance and support in any kind of disaster,

recognizing the necessity for the Movement to address itself more comprehensively and more intensively than up to now to the issue of possible dangers and consequences of technical and other disasters with a view to more adequate and improved assistance,

noting with gratitude that the members of the International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna recently adopted a Convention on early notification of nuclear accidents and on mutual assistance,

1. *requests* governments to intensify future international co-operation for the safe development and application of new technologies and to undertake efforts to conclude further bilateral and multilateral agreements on mutual, timely and comprehensive information as well as on measures for mutual assistance,
2. *recommends* to governments and international organizations when concluding such agreements and conventions also to take proper account of the capacity of their corresponding National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and of the entire Movement to participate in relief action and to include them in their information system at an early stage,
3. *further recommends* to governments vigorously to support their National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their efforts to improve their capacity for assistance in this field,
4. *calls upon* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to approach their governments in the manner outlined above and to undertake efforts that promote improvement of their own capacity for assistance,
5. *encourages* National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to intensify their efforts to arrive at bilateral and multilateral agreements and commitments to mutual assistance in case of major disasters of any kind,

6. *recommends* that the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute undertake a study concerning the possibilities and necessities of improved assistance from the Movement in case of technical and other disasters and that the results of this study be reported to the next International Conference,

7. *calls upon* the Movement not to slacken its efforts to support National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their endeavour to conclude agreements for mutual assistance in case of technical disasters and all other kinds of disasters in as comprehensive a manner as possible and in the spirit of human solidarity and to carry out a regular exchange of experience.

XXII

Development of National Societies as a contribution to national development

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the League Secretariat's report on the development of National Societies as a contribution to national development (follow-up to Resolution XXV of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross),

recalling the objective of the *Strategy for the Development of National Societies in the Eighties*, being: the existence of a self-reliant Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in every country of the world, prepared to perform efficiently its task as a voluntary organization acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities,

expressing appreciation for the efforts of volunteers, sister Societies and others for the increase in number of recognized National Societies and Societies in formation,

observing that many National Societies in developing countries need further assistance to function as self-reliant Societies capable of providing services on their own,

1. *stresses* the need for developing National Societies to draw up and implement development plans, following the guidelines of the above-mentioned League report,
2. *urges* the League to assist National Societies in drawing up and implementing their development plans, in reviewing and evaluating the progress and in mobilizing adequate support,
3. *requests* the more firmly established National Societies and their governments to increase their development support to the most needy sister Societies in developing countries, taking into account the criteria and priorities for support laid down in the above-mentioned League report,
4. *recommends* the ICRC to further increase its assistance to developing National Societies, particularly in those countries and regions affected by conflict,
5. *recommends* that the Henry Dunant Institute develop programmes and publish studies on how Red Cross and Red Crescent disaster relief operations can better promote the development services of National Societies,
6. *calls upon* governments and organizations other than those of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to give substantial contributions towards the development of self-reliant and capable National Societies to enhance their potential to become valuable partners in national development.

XXIII

Red Cross and Red Crescent voluntary service in today's world

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling that the humanitarian work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is in the main based on voluntary service, one of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement,

recalling that the new needs resulting from the rapid development of today's society and its socio-economic implications call for the establishment of new community-based services,

emphasizing the increasingly important role played by volunteers in providing these services,

aware of the fact that, more than ever, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are confronted with emergency situations and must be able to rely on an ever larger number of volunteers capable of coping with the consequences of conflicts, natural disasters or the flow of refugees,

taking into account the growing number of humanitarian aid agencies and groups,

1. *reaffirms* Resolutions XIX and XXIII of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross regarding the role and involvement of volunteers,
2. *takes note* of the conclusions of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service (Mexico, 1983),
3. *expresses its gratitude* to the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Henry Dunant Institute for their excellent report drawn up in consultation with the International Committee of the Red Cross,
4. *thanks* the Henry Dunant Institute for its constructive study on *Red Cross Voluntary Service in Today's Society*,
5. *invites* members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to continue being extremely attentive to the status, rights and duties of volunteers, their motivation, their recruitment, their training, the integration and participation of volunteers in all phases of planning and implementation of activities, relations between volunteers and remunerated professionals, and finally the relations of volunteers with the other voluntary agencies,
6. *recommends* to National Societies, on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the First World Meeting on Red Cross Voluntary Service, and of the Henry Dunant Institute study:
 - a) to define—already in peacetime and in agreement with the competent authorities or organizations of their respective countries—the arrangements for co-operation, in the event of armed conflict, of voluntary medical personnel with the medical services of the armed forces, in compliance with Articles 24 and 26 of the First Geneva

Convention, and with the civil defence services and other health institutions,

- b) to define, already in peacetime in agreement with government health services, the contribution which volunteers, be they on the same footing as military medical personnel or not, can make to tasks not specifically stipulated in Article 24 of the First Convention,
- c) to define with government and regional authorities the contribution which their volunteers should make in the event of natural disasters, in the context of national relief plans,
- d) to facilitate making qualified personnel available for urgent international humanitarian missions,
- e) to promulgate, if they do not already have one, a national charter for volunteers specifying their rights and duties,
- f) to take all suitable measures to ensure that volunteers and those they assist are protected both in their normal activities and in emergency situations,
- g) to lay down practical guidelines for the recruitment of volunteers, taking into account their qualifications and their aspirations, and also the needs to be met,
- h) to ensure that volunteers receive basic training on the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and specific training adapted to the various tasks they may be called on to undertake; this applies in particular to medical personnel likely to be made available to the medical services of the armed forces,
- i) to encourage the participation of volunteers in the planning of programmes of activities and in their evaluation,
- j) to provide for a plan for the personal development of volunteers enabling them to improve their knowledge and have access to greater responsibilities,
- k) to review regularly their international structures at national, regional and local levels in order to adapt them to needs and activities, to ensure the best possible use of human resources, to reinforce the motivation of volunteers and develop their sense of responsibility,
- l) to set up and develop multidisciplinary teams with a view to integrated activities,
- m) to co-operate with voluntary agencies and groups and co-ordinate their activities, notably with respect to the identification of needs, the recruitment and training of volunteers, and the dissemination of humanitarian ideals in strict compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement,

7. *recommends* to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:

- a) that it support National Societies which ask for help in drawing up guidelines for their policy on volunteers,

- b) that it continue co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with voluntary service or other subjects in which National Societies play an active role, particularly through their volunteers,
8. *recommends* to the International Committee of the Red Cross:
- a) that it contribute to the supplementary training of volunteers with a view to their activities in case of conflict or similar situations,
 - b) that it assist National Societies requesting such assistance in defining with the competent authorities the arrangements for co-operation by voluntary medical personnel in case of armed conflict,
9. *recommends* to governments that they support National Society efforts to develop their voluntary services, particularly in emergency situations,
10. *recommends* to the Henry Dunant Institute that, in close co-operation with the League and ICRC, it continue and encourage studies on voluntary service and that it organize symposiums, seminars and workshops on the different aspects of voluntary service, reinforcing all the while its training programme for National Society leaders, officers and volunteers.

XXIV

Financing of the ICRC by National Societies

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC,

having noted with satisfaction an increase in the financial support for the ICRC by a growing number of National Societies,

noting the ICRC's financial needs arising from the increase in its permanent activities, as set out in the document entitled *The International Committee of the Red Cross and its future —Five-year Programme*, which was published in August 1985 and forwarded to all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,

recalling the resolutions relative to the financing of the ICRC adopted by previous International Conferences,

1. *thanks* National Societies which have, on the basis of Resolution XVIII of the Twenty-fourth International Conference, voluntarily contributed to the financing of the ICRC,
2. *invites* them to continue their efforts in order to enable the ICRC to meet the increase in its permanent expenditure,
3. *mandates* the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC to set each year, in conjunction with the ICRC, the rate of the National Societies' overall voluntary contribution to the financing of the ICRC's regular budget, this rate being expressed as a percentage of the regular budget expenditure and it being understood that the said rate shall on no account entail an increase of more than ten per cent from one year to the next in the contribution of each National Society, and that each National Society's share in these contributions shall be equal to the percentage assigned to that Society in the League's scale of contributions,
4. *reiterates its appeal* to National Societies which have not yet contributed to the financing of the ICRC, by emphasizing the importance of demonstrating universal solidarity, even through symbolic contributions,
5. *urges* all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to intensify their support for the ICRC in its approaches to their governments.

XXV

Financing of the ICRC by governments

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC,

recalling that the humanitarian mandate of the ICRC is based essentially on the 1949 Geneva Conventions, to which 165 States are Parties, which have thereby undertaken to provide the ICRC with the means required to discharge that mandate,

considering the sizeable increase in the ICRC's permanent activities and the resulting increase in its expenditure, as shown in the document entitled *The International Committee of the Red Cross and its future —Five-year*

Programme, which was published in August 1985 and sent to all governments,

recalling Resolution 11 of the 1949 Diplomatic Conference as well as the resolutions, adopted by numerous previous International Conferences, relative to the financing of the ICRC by governments,

1. *thanks* the members of the Commission for the Financing of the ICRC for their work to help increase the ICRC's financial resources,
2. *renews* the mandate of the Commission and decides to raise the number of its members from 9 to 12, one third of whom will be replaced every four years,
3. *appoints* the National Societies of the following countries to be members of the Commission: Algeria, China, Colombia, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Mauritania, New Zealand, Panama, Romania and Spain,
4. *notes with satisfaction* that a number of governments—though unfortunately too few—have increased their contributions to the ICRC since the previous International Conference,
5. *appeals* to all States Parties to the Geneva Conventions to demonstrate more forcefully their financial support for the work of the ICRC.

XXVI

The Red Cross and Red Crescent development and peace

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recognizing that poor people in affected countries are most vulnerable to disasters, both natural and man-made,

referring to Resolutions XV and XVII adopted by the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution 2 of the 1983 Council of Delegates which states that “a curbing of the present arms race might render it possible for substantial parts of the resources now being used for military purposes to

be reallocated to development programmes directed at alleviating human suffering and responding to basic human needs",

emphasizing the potential of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to participate in raising the living conditions of the poor, particularly in developing countries, as expressed in the *Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace* and in the *Message to the World Community* at the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace,

urges the Movement, in its development efforts, to reduce tension by contributing towards a more just and humane society through development efforts, *inter alia*:

- a) by working towards a better balance between man and nature through protection and rehabilitation of the environment, in order to prevent and to improve the situation of the people living in disaster-prone areas, thus reducing the potential risk of unrest and conflict,
- b) by strengthening the capacity of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a contribution to national development and national humanitarian mobilization,
- c) by setting up long-term integrated programmes with a view to strengthening the capability of National Societies to cope with future disasters,
- d) by integrating the dissemination of international humanitarian law and its underlying principles in all national development plans,
- e) by paying special attention to improving health and nutrition through training and support services adapted to local needs, respecting traditions and securing the dignity of human beings,
- f) by contributing to practical and acceptable measures to solve demographic problems and to improve economic and social conditions, thus creating conditions for a more secure life,
- g) by setting aside adequate funds for long-term development programmes.

XXVII

International Year of Peace 1986

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

emphasizing in this International Year of Peace 1986 that the vocation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in confor-

mity with the Fundamental Principle of humanity, is to prevent and alleviate human suffering, protect life and health and to promote lasting peace and international co-operation,

recalling the Movement's previous decisions and resolutions on peace and disarmament, the *Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace* and the *Fundamental Guidelines for the Contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to a True Peace in the World* adopted by the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace,

welcoming with appreciation all efforts and initiatives, unilateral and multilateral, in favour of peace and disarmament, aiming at reducing the risks of war, undertaken especially in this International Year of Peace,

expressing, however, deep concern that the world is still facing continuous development and increased production of weapons of all types and that the use of weapons of mass destruction would have catastrophic effects for mankind,

deeply concerned by the inequitable social and economic conditions, the practice of racial discrimination and violations of human rights in many countries, as a major cause of tension and conflicts, *and deploring* the ongoing armed conflicts in various parts of the world,

1. *takes note* of the *Message to the World Community* originating from the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace, which reads as follows:

«With 120 years' experience in the protection and assistance of victims of armed conflicts, natural disasters and other calamities, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reaffirms that its own contribution to a true peace is expressed in its motto, "Through Humanity to Peace".

Sustained by its many millions of members, the Movement is determined to become ever-more active in the service of its humanitarian ideals.

In this positive spirit, delegations from 102 countries have met in Aaland, Finland's demilitarized "islands of peace", and in Stockholm. Some National Society members have come from countries which are actually at war or whose governments are strongly opposed to one another. Nonetheless, the atmosphere throughout the Conference has been one of mutual respect, tolerance and consensus — the very basis for a common ideal.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is deeply concerned by the tension, violence, racial discrimination and violation of human rights in

many parts of the world. It recognizes that inequitable social and economic factors are major causes of unrest. It notes, with grief, that there are today over 30 international or internal conflicts fought with conventional weapons.

In many of these conflicts, no distinction is made between combatants and civilians, the latter being often the target of deadly weapons. This lack of distinction violates the fundamentals of international humanitarian law.

The Movement is particularly alarmed by the continuing production of weapons of all types, including nuclear, chemical and space weapons.

For the Movement, peace is not just the absence of war but a dynamic process of co-operation among all States and peoples. It is based on the amicable settlement of disputes, respect for human rights, and the fair and equitable distribution of resources. True peace is firmly founded on respect for international law and on mutual understanding.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement therefore reiterates its dedication to the alleviation of famine and the improvement of health worldwide. It will continue its relief work for the distressed, refugees, displaced persons and victims of armed conflicts, whether they are civilians or prisoners.

Respect for humanitarian law is essential to peace. The Movement therefore entreats governments to ratify the existing humanitarian conventions, to respect them and to ensure their respect. For its part, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will continue to pursue the development and wide dissemination of international humanitarian law.

Through appropriate educational programmes, the Movement will continue to meet the aspirations of young people and to promote among them the ideals of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

At its Second World Conference on Peace, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement urges all governments to strive constantly for co-operation, solidarity and friendship among peoples everywhere, by genuine dialogue.

It exhorts all governments to work unceasingly for gradual and controlled disarmament—both of conventional weapons and of all weapons of mass destruction, which threaten the very existence of mankind.

It appeals to all adults and young people to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to promoting the dignity of man and to respect humanitarian values, so making a personal commitment to true peace worldwide.

In the spirit of this Conference, with National Society representatives concentrating on what binds them together in the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Movement trusts that the world will go "Through Humanity to Peace".».

Attached and forming a part of the above-mentioned message was a list of Red Cross and Red Crescent selected initiatives for peace emanating from, and recommended by the Second Conference:

« Dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law

1. National Societies should develop more effective means to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law among all sections of their population, through their existing or future activities. This dissemination should be an integral part of all major development programmes.
2. The ICRC should study whether it is feasible to establish standard tests to determinate the level of knowledge of international humanitarian law in the armed forces.

Respect for humanitarian Conventions

3. National Societies should co-operate with their governments, Parties to the Conventions, in order that they respect, and ensure respect for, international humanitarian law worldwide.
4. The Movement should support efforts now being made for a convention banning the production, testing, storage and use of chemical weapons.

Protection of civilians and children

5. The Movement, alarmed by the increasing civilian casualties in armed conflicts, should induce governments and other political powers to observe the protection granted to the civilian population by international humanitarian law.
6. The Movement urges the establishment of zones where civilians can live safely in times of armed conflict.
7. The Movement should support all efforts to protect children in situations of armed conflict and to prevent their participation in hostilities, at least before the age of 15.

Peace education and training

8. A basic curriculum for peace education, emphasizing training in the solution of conflicts, should be jointly developed by the ICRC and the League. Education based on this curriculum should be encouraged, especially for young people.
9. The ICRC should be invited to develop a programme for training its delegates in all forms of negotiation, including mediation in humanitarian and other fields.

Development activities

10. Disaster prevention, aimed at the protection and rehabilitation of the environment, should be an important component in all major development programmes—so reducing the risk of drought, floods and the ensuing unrest and potential conflict.
 11. National Societies should work unceasingly, on the basis of Red Cross and Red Crescent solidarity, to overcome hunger and other calamities, eliminate their long-term consequences thus diminishing potential threats to peace.
 12. National Societies should contribute to practical and acceptable measures to solve demographic problems, diminishing tension in areas where population growth exceeds food production, where applicable.
 13. National Societies should intensify their efforts to support primary health care, particularly in developing countries.
 14. Since development helps reduce inequalities, themselves causes of tension, National Societies should devote more effort to this area preferably within the framework of the League's *Strategy for Development*. »
2. *urges* governments, National Societies, the ICRC and the League to actively contribute to the promotion and implementation of this message.

XXVIII

The Movement and the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XXVII of the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross on the International Year of Disabled Persons,

noting with satisfaction the setting up by the ICRC of the Special Fund for the Disabled *and appreciating* the results achieved,

noting that the period 1983-1992 has been designated the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons,

aware that in general insufficient support or attention is being directed towards the problems of the disabled,

recognizing that much physical and mental disability can be prevented by the implementation of simple and effective measures, such as vaccination,

1. *recommends* that National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies seize every opportunity to strengthen the activities of existing national organizations which focus on the physical, mental and social needs of the disabled,
2. *urges* National Societies to find ways of supporting national programmes which focus on the prevention of disability,
3. *invites* States also to co-operate, especially financially, with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, for the benefit of the disabled,
4. *recommends* that National Societies take the necessary steps to ensure the fullest possible participation of the disabled.

XXIX

The fight against drug abuse

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling Resolution XXX of the Twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross (Istanbul, 1969), Resolution 11 of the Executive Committee of the League in 1976 and Decision 39 of the General Assembly of the League in 1985,

considering the results of the Seminar on Drug Abuse (Rome, 1978), the conclusions of the World Congress "Health—Drug Dependence" (Sundvallen, 1985), and the National Societies' replies to the questionnaire on drugs,

conscious of the results of the work of the Group of Red Cross experts on drug abuse among young people,

taking into account the spread of drug dependence all over the world, shown by the continued dissemination of drugs among young people,

1. *requests* governments:

- a) to consider the drug problem as a whole, in both consumer and producer countries,
- b) to consider the potential human resources that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement could mobilize for the prevention of drug abuse or for treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts,
- c) to give special and adequate economic and technical support to drug-producing countries, particularly those whose economies are in a depressed state, in order to promote effective action against drug production and illegal drug trafficking,
- d) to adopt the measures necessary to combat trafficking in drugs and substances used in their manufacture,

2. *recommends* the League:

- a) to consider the fight against any kind of mental suffering or known dependence as a major Red Cross and Red Crescent priority,
- b) to resume, broaden and intensify co-operation with the World Health Organization and other governmental and non-governmental organizations in this connection,
- c) to choose the elimination of drug dependence as the theme for the 1989 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day,
- d) to promote Red Cross and Red Crescent regional congresses, with the co-operation of governments, on the subject of drug abuse,
- e) to follow-up on the proceedings of the Group of Red Cross experts on drug abuse,

3. *requests* National Societies:

- a) to form groups of experts on this subject to assess the most urgent problems on which attention and efforts should be concentrated, notably in the countries worst hit by the problems of drug dependence,
- b) to work out a strategy of intervention in the form best suited to the prevention of drug abuse,
- c) to pay special attention to social welfare programmes for the rehabilitation of drug addicts with the co-operation of public and private institutions,
- d) to consider the importance of basing all activities for prevention of drug abuse and for the rehabilitation of drug addicts on the commitment of young people within the Movement.

XXX

Tobacco smoking

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

recalling various resolutions of the World Health Assembly on the health hazards of tobacco smoking,

considering that tobacco smoking is incompatible with the attainment of *Health for All by the Year 2000*,

considering that passive smoking violates the right to health of non-smokers,

1. *urges* National Societies:
 - a) to establish, in case of need, programmes of education and public information on the effects of the use of tobacco,
 - b) to support measures of the World Health Organization for the implementation of strategies on smoking control,
 - c) to encourage the total ban, restrictions or limitations on tobacco advertising,
2. *suggests* that smoking should not be permitted in the meetings of the International Conference, Council of Delegates, General Assembly and Executive Council of the League, all committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Movement and in meetings of, or sponsored by, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

XXXI

Adoption of the Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement¹

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

prompted by the wish to further the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,

¹ *Editor's note:* The text of the Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure will appear in the January-February 1987 issue of the *Review*

1. *adopts the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Rules of Procedure of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the form in which they are presented to the Conference,*

2. *decides that they shall enter into force on 8 November 1986, the anniversary of the publication, in 1862, of Henry Dunant's book A Memory of Solferino.*

XXXII

Revision of the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken cognizance of the report of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shôken Fund,

1. *thanks the Joint Commission for its management of the Empress Shôken Fund and approves all the provisions made by it,*

2. *requests the Joint Commission to transmit this report to the Imperial Family of Japan through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society,*

3. *approves the new Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund, the text of which is as follows:*

REGULATIONS FOR THE EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

(Approved by the Sixteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, London 1938, and revised by the Nineteenth International Conference, New Delhi 1957, and the Twenty-fifth International Conference, Geneva 1986)

Article 1 — The sum of 100,000 yen in Japanese gold presented by H.M. The Empress of Japan to the International Red Cross on the occasion of the Ninth International Conference (Washington, 1912) to promote "relief work in time of peace", was increased to 200,000 yen by a further gift of 100,000 yen from their Majesties The Empress and The Dowager Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Fifteenth International

Conference, (Tokyo, 1934). The Fund was further increased by a gift of 3,600,000 yen from H.M. The Empress of Japan, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary in 1963, and by successive contributions from the Government of Japan since 1966 and from the Japanese Red Cross Society. This fund shall be entitled: "The Empress Shôken Fund".

Article 2 — The Fund shall be administered and its revenues distributed by a Joint Commission of six members chosen in their personal capacity. The Joint Commission shall be composed equally of three members appointed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and three by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; the quorum shall be four. The Chairman of the Joint Commission shall be on a permanent basis one of the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross whereas the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall provide the Joint Commission's Secretariat. The Joint Commission shall meet at Geneva, in principle at the headquarters of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 3 — The capital of the Fund shall remain intact. Only the revenues provided by interest on it shall be used for allocations awarded by the Joint Commission to meet all or part of the cost of the activities enumerated below, any balances not utilized being used to increase either the capital of the Fund or subsequent allocations:

- (a) Disaster preparedness
- (b) Activities in the field of health
- (c) Blood transfusion services
- (d) Youth activities
- (e) First aid and rescue programmes
- (f) Activities in the field of social welfare
- (g) Dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- (h) Such other programmes of general interest for the development of the activities of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 4 — National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies wishing to receive an allocation shall make the necessary application through their Central Committees to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31 December of the year preceding that in which the allocations are to be made. Applications shall be supported by full details concerning the particular activity selected from among those specified in Article 3 above.

Article 5 — The Joint Commission shall examine the applications mentioned in the previous Article and shall make such allocations as it considers just and suitable. It shall each year communicate the decisions it has taken to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 6 — National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which feel obliged by circumstances to put the allocations received to uses other than those specified in their applications for grants under Article 4 must ask for the Joint Commission's approval before doing so.

Article 7 — National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies shall send to the Joint Commission, not later than twelve months after receipt of the allocations, a report on the use of the allocations received.

Article 8 — The announcement of distribution shall take place each year on 11 April, the anniversary of the death of H.M. The Empress Shōken.

Article 9 — A sum which shall not exceed six per cent of the annual interest on the capital shall be set aside to cover the cost of administering the Fund.

Article 10 — The Joint Commission shall present to each International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent a report on the current financial situation of the Fund, the allocations which have been made since the preceding Conference and the use made of those allocations by National Societies. The International Conference shall transmit this report to the Japanese Imperial Family through the intermediary of the Japanese Red Cross Society.

XXXIII

Amendments to the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

1. *decides* that Article 5 shall henceforth be worded as follows:

“Ways and means of assistance

Red Cross assistance to victims is given free of charge and without any distinction as to nationality, race, religion, social condition or political opinion. It is made available on the basis of the relative importance of individual needs and in order of their emergency.

Red Cross relief is administered with economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Its utilization is the subject of reports, including audited accounts of income and expenditure, reflecting a true and fair view of its affairs.”,

2. *decides* that Article 14 A shall henceforth be worded as follows:

“Initial information

To enable the League to act as the disaster information centre, National Societies shall immediately inform it of any major disaster occurring within their country, including data on the extent of the damage and on the relief measures taken on the national level for assisting victims. Even if the National Society does not envisage appealing for external assistance, the League may, after having obtained clearance from the National Society concerned, send a representative to the spot to gather the information it needs. When due to circumstances it is not possible to obtain such prior clearance immediately, the League should spare no efforts to secure the required clearance in the shortest time possible.”,

3. *adopts* the following new Article 20 B:

“Auditing accounts

The League/ICRC may, in certain exceptional circumstances, not be fully satisfied with the way in which resources for League/ICRC operations and programmes are managed and accounted for by either participating or operating Societies.

In such circumstances, the League/ICRC is authorized to entrust a qualified League/ICRC representative to look into the matter.

The National Society in question is requested to ensure that the League/ICRC representative, in consultation with the auditors of the Society, has access to such of the records of the Society as the League/ICRC representative considers necessary for the purpose of his task.”.

XXXIV

Foundation for the ICRC

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross,

having taken note of the report submitted by the Council of the Foundation for the ICRC,

1. *accepts* the conclusion of the members of the Council of the Foundation stating that at present this Foundation cannot play a more active part in covering ICRC expenditure because of the numerous steps already taken as regards fund raising,

2. *thanks* the members of the Council of the Foundation for the work they have accomplished,

3. *renews*, within the Council of the Foundation, the mandate of:

Mr. Hans Høegh,
Secretary General of the League
of Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies,

Mr. Bengt Bergman,
Under-Secretary General of the
League of Red Cross and Red
Crescent Societies.

XXXV

Appointment of the members of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

elects the following as members of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for the period up to the next International Conference:

Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordan),
Botho Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Hohenstein
(Federal Republic of Germany),
Mrs. Mavy A. A. Harmon (Brazil),
Dr. Janos Hantos (Hungary),
Mr. Byron M. Hove (Zimbabwe).

XXXVI

Place and date of the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

1. *endorses* the Standing Commission's recommendation gratefully to accept the offer made by the Colombian Red Cross to hold the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Colombia,
2. *asks* the Standing Commission to fix the place and date in agreement with the host Society.

XXXVII

Thanks

The Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross

1. *expresses its gratitude* to the Swiss Federal Council, to the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and to the Administrative

Council of the City of Geneva for their hospitality and the help and assistance they have given to the Swiss Red Cross in the preparation of the Conference,

2. *expresses its particular thanks* to His Excellency Mr. Alphons Egli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to Mr. Christian Grobet, President of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, for their presence and participation in the opening ceremony,

3. *thanks* the Swiss people and particularly the inhabitants of Geneva for the warm welcome extended to the delegates and observers,

4. *conveys its thanks* to the Swiss Red Cross and to its President, Mr. Kurt Bolliger, for hosting the Conference,

5. *expresses its gratitude* to the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for their invaluable contribution,

6. *thanks* the Bureaux of the Conference and of its Commissions, the Secretariat, interpreters, translators, technical personnel and all those who so untiringly contributed to the smooth functioning of the work of the Conference, as well as the representatives of the media.

Resolutions of the Council of Delegates

(adopted on 22 October 1986)

1

Composition of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace

The Council of Delegates,

having taken note of the Report of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace on its activities since the Council of Delegates of 1985,

1. *thanks* the Commission for its works and the proposals which it made regarding its composition,
2. *approves* the new composition of the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace, now made up of the following members:
 - the National Societies of Australia, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Jordan, Mauritania, Yemen Arab Republic,
 - as *ex officio* members, the National Societies which organized the two World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences on Peace, *i.e.* Yugoslavia and Sweden (the latter alternating with the National Society of Finland),
 - the ICRC, the League and the Henry Dunant Institute.

2

The Red Cross and Red Crescent development and peace

The Council of Delegates,

having adopted the draft resolution on the Red Cross and Red Crescent development and peace,

transmits this draft resolution for adoption to the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.¹

3

The Movement as a factor of peace

The Council of Delegates,

recalling Resolutions XXIII (1963), 4 (1979) and 1, 2 and 3 (1983) of the Council of Delegates and the *Fundamental Guidelines* adopted at the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace (Åland and Stockholm, 1984),

bearing in mind Resolution 2 adopted at the ordinary meeting of the Inter-American Regional Committee of the Red Cross (CORI) held in Panama City from 26 to 28 June 1986,

considering that that resolution established a special Commission consisting of the Presidents of the Red Cross Societies of Central America and under the chairmanship of the President of CORI with the task of submitting to the Thirteenth Inter-American Conference a report on and proposals for activities designed to foster peace in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement in that region of the world,

¹ See Resolution XXVI, p. 374.

1. *strongly urges* support and encouragement for that resolution by strengthening the mandate given to the Commission established at the CORI meeting in Panama,
2. *greatly appreciates* any contributions and suggestions which might be offered to that Commission by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and sister National Societies,
3. *urges* the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to give the co-operation needed so that it will be a true factor of peace in the Central American Region,
4. *transmits* this resolution for information to the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.

4

International Year of Peace 1986

The Council of Delegates,

having adopted the draft resolution on the International Year of Peace 1986,

transmits this draft resolution for adoption to the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.¹

5

Development of activities of the Henry Dunant Institute

The Council of Delegates,

aware of the important role played by the Henry Dunant Institute since its foundation, *and appreciating* the services it has rendered to the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,

¹ See Resolution XXVII, p. 375.

having noted the report on the activities of the Henry Dunant Institute since the Twenty-fourth International Conference of the Red Cross,

1. *expresses its gratitude* for the positive results achieved by the Henry Dunant Institute during this period,

2. *encourages* the Henry Dunant Institute to:

- a) pursue its activities in the fields of research, training and publications in the service of the Movement,
- b) continue its support of the ICRC and the League in the dissemination of information on the principles and ideals of the Movement,
- c) strengthen its contribution to efforts to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law,
- d) pursue the programme of development studies designed to evaluate the impact and the quality of Red Cross and Red Crescent activities and to reinforce those of National Societies,
- e) broaden its contacts with National Societies and universities, by placing at their disposal a documentation centre for material on international humanitarian law and the Movement,

3. *encourages* National Societies to contribute to the activities of the Institute:

- a) by suggesting research topics of a humanitarian nature, the study and the publications of which would be useful to their activities,
- b) by facilitating arrangements for trainees at the Institute in order to ensure a more thorough training of National Society officers, particularly in regard to the international activities of the Movement and to international humanitarian law,
- c) by placing at its disposal, wherever possible, qualified personnel able to participate in the accomplishment of certain of the Institute's specific tasks,
- d) by assisting in the organization of seminars on such topics as the Red Cross and Red Crescent, international humanitarian law and other specific subjects intended for their own members or for others not belonging to the Movement,
- e) by aiding with the production and distribution of its publications and supplying useful material for its documentation centre,

4. *invites* the ICRC, the League and National Societies to provide the Institute with the necessary means for the pursuit and development of its activities and for the implementation of specific projects.

6

Approval of accounts

The Council of Delegates

approves the accounts of the Florence Nightingale Fund, the Augusta Fund and the Empress Shôken Fund.

7

Place and date of the next Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates

decides that its next meeting will be held in 1987 at the same place and on the same date as the General Assembly of the League.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

The General Assembly of the League held its sixth session from 18 to 20 October 1986 in the presence of representatives from 108 National Societies.

With the President of the League, Mr. Enrique de la Mata, in the chair, the General Assembly unanimously approved the admission of seven new National Societies to membership of the Federation, thereby bringing to 144 the total number of National Societies which are members of the International Red Cross. The new member Societies are the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates, the Angola Red Cross, the Guinean Red Cross, the Saint Lucia Red Cross, the Suriname Red Cross and the Red Crescent of Djibouti.¹

A presentation of the League Secretariat's activities was one of the main items on the Assembly's agenda. In his report, the Secretary General of the League, Mr. Hans Hoegh, described it as "a difficult and complex chapter in the history of the League". Certain large-scale relief operations, notably in Africa, have had to be scaled down in 1986 because of a decrease in available funds. Furthermore, staff and management problems have induced the Secretary General to call in an outside organization to make an objective assessment and propose immediate remedial measures.

The comments and criticism which emerged in the debate that followed clearly showed that the League needed to have a strong, well-structured and more professional Secretariat.

The Assembly authorized the President and the Secretary General to study the Secretariat staff recruitment plan, to re-organize as appropriate and to appoint, if necessary, a Deputy Secretary General and a Director for Operations.

The Secretary General's report was considered to be direct, sincere and constructive and was finally approved by acclamation.

¹ The *International Review* published the circulars announcing recognition of the National Societies of Guinea-Bissau and the United Arab Emirates in the September-October issue (pp. 280-283). Given the large amount of material in the present issue, the circulars announcing recognition of the National Societies of Angola, Guinea, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Djibouti will appear in the next issue of the *Review*.

The Assembly approved the League's 1987 Budget which came to 23,150,000 Swiss francs. It also decided to extend the terms of reference of the present consultative system and to appoint a commission consisting of eleven National Societies to study the amendments to the Constitution of the League and examine the consultative system. In addition, the Assembly entrusted an *ad hoc* Committee consisting of five National Societies with the task of studying all the reports submitted to the Executive Council on relief activities in Africa between 1984 and 1986 and to make its views known at the next session of the Executive Council.

After having adopted the reports and recommendations of the Youth, Development, Relief and Health and Community Services Commissions, the General Assembly took note of an interim report on the implementation of the "Plan of Red Cross and Red Crescent Action in the Struggle Against Racism and Racial Discrimination" presented by the League's Secretary General.

The South African Red Cross Society informed the General Assembly that it was the only body in South Africa accepted by all groups and that, although its task was not easy, it had tried to develop a working relationship with the government authorities to enable it to perform its duties. The South African Red Cross Society emphasized that it was independent of the government and that it acted fully in conformity with the principles of the Red Cross.

Several delegations expressed their support for the efforts undertaken by the South African Red Cross Society and called for "more support to help it during these very difficult times". Delegations also called for immediate action to be taken to assist the thousands of displaced persons in the region. The South African President repeated his Society's willingness to welcome the commission of enquiry that the previous General Assembly had considered sending to South Africa.

The Assembly also approved the Third Programme of Action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with respect to dissemination of international humanitarian law and of the principles and ideals of the Movement (1986-1990) before presenting it to the Twenty-fifth International Conference.

Finally, amongst the thirty or so decisions adopted by the Assembly we would draw attention to the one proposing that the 1988 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day be devoted to Development.

The next session of the General Assembly will be held in Rio de Janeiro in 1987.

PRESS, INFORMATION AND EXHIBITIONS DURING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Information and Press Service

Throughout the entire duration of the meetings in Geneva an Information and Press Service whose members belonged to the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross Information Offices published a "Daily Bulletin" to provide the participants at the Conference with information. This Bulletin came out simultaneously in English, French and Spanish during the actual Conference itself. During meetings of the League, the Bulletin also appeared in Arabic.

It should be added that some one hundred and fifty journalists (from the press and audiovisual field) from some twenty countries were accredited to the Conference.

Films

As part of the opening ceremony the Conference film "United for Humanity" was screened. It depicts the broad outlines of the Movement's protection and assistance activities in the 1980s.

Throughout the entire Conference, films, video cassettes, video clips and series of slides made by the ICRC, the League and the National Societies on specific themes were shown to the participants.

Photo and poster competition

On the occasion of the International Conference, the ICRC and the League arranged a photo and poster competition open to National Societies, the theme being the work of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

Two panels of judges each consisting of three outside experts in graphic arts and photography and four representatives of the International Red Cross examined 150 photos sent in by 18 National Societies and 148 posters submitted by 17 National Societies.

The first prize for the poster competition was awarded to the Finnish Red Cross and the second to the National Societies of France and the United States of America. The Canadian, Nicaraguan and Spanish Red Cross Societies shared the third prize.

The winners of the photo competition, on behalf of their National Societies, were: First prize: Mr. Rudolph Vetter (American Red Cross); Second prize awarded to two photographers, Mrs. Ludmila Ciglanova (Czechoslovak Red Cross) and Mr. Gene Jeffers (American Red Cross). The third prize went to Mr. Heine Pedersen and Mr. Finn Frandsen (Danish Red Cross) and Mr. David Moss (British Red Cross).

Exhibitions

Several exhibitions were held during the meetings in Geneva.

The League Secretariat and the Henry Dunant Society of Geneva organized an *exhibition on Henry Dunant*. This included oil paintings by the German artist, Ursula Lambach, depicting the founder of the Red Cross at various stages in his life. A series of lithographs from Mr. Michel Rouèche showing the house where Dunant was born and historic buildings in Geneva were also on display. The proceeds from sales of these works of art have been allocated to Red Cross relief operations.

There was an exhibition on the theme "*Child Alive*" with drawings and photos illustrating the programme initiated in 1984 by the League to eradicate infant mortality by means of information and prevention campaigns. The theme "*Child Alive*" has been chosen for the 1987 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

The magazine, *National Geographic*, exhibited twenty-four panels of superb colour photos on ICRC protection and assistance work. In addition, this magazine has devoted thirty pages of its November 1986 issue to the ICRC.

Delegates to the Conference were able to visit two photo and poster exhibitions at which the winning entries to the two competitions referred to above were displayed.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The International Committee of Red Cross and the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions

The Review is happy to publish the statement by the President of the ICRC on "The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions", which was submitted to Commission I on 28 October 1986 during the discussions on the current number of signatures and ratifications of and accessions to the Additional Protocols. (See also p. 329).

During these discussions many delegations announced that their respective governments were about to give notification of their accession to the Protocols or that the internal procedure prior to notification had almost been completed or that their governments had declared their firm intention to speed up the notification procedure.

With the accession to the Additional Protocols of Antigua and Barbuda, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Bahrain, the number of States party to Protocol I comes to 65 and that of States party to Protocol II to 58. Texts referring to formal notification of these accessions appear further on (See pp. 408-409).

Statement by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC

It was nearly ten years ago, on 8 June 1977, that the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law adopted the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. The decision was taken by consensus, no government delegation being opposed to the proposal that those two long negotiated instruments of humanitarian law should become part of the body of international law accepted by the entire international community.

Today, 65 States are bound by Protocol I and 58 by Protocol II. This means that a third of the international community has duly undertaken to respect the new legal instruments of 1977 in the event

of armed conflict. In the eyes of the ICRC, that is an encouraging result. In view of the complexity of the issues covered by the Protocols and of the great number of international treaties which still have to be examined by the appropriate government authorities, the ICRC is pleased to find that the Law of Geneva is being given privileged attention in many countries. The goal has not yet been attained, however: unlike the Geneva Conventions, the 1977 Protocols have not yet been universally accepted.

The ICRC wishes to take the opportunity of this debate to reaffirm its conviction that the Additional Protocols mark an important advance in international humanitarian law. They add substantially to the protection of victims in armed conflict. Admittedly, the texts are not perfect. But our aim is not to rewrite history: what is important at present is to have a clear understanding of the texts as a whole. The ICRC's standpoint is the same as on 8 June 1977, and it knows that its conviction is shared by the large majority of States which took part in the 1974-1977 Conference.

I am not here to explain the text of the Protocols — that is the legal experts' domain. Nevertheless, I think it important to call to mind a few innovations which show especially well the progress achieved as a result of the adoption of the Protocols:

- Protocol I reinforces numerous aspects of the protection and assistance which must be accorded to the wounded and the sick, to members of the armed forces and to civilians. Suffice it to mention, as an example, the greater protection granted to medical transport (in particular medical aircraft) or the obligation of parties to a conflict to search for missing persons;
- Protocol I introduces into modern law rules protecting the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, while adapting these rules to the problems entailed by modern military operations. The fact that the prohibition of attacks against the civilian population is repeated and reaffirmed is of historic importance;
- Protocol I reasserts one of the fundamental tenets of the law of armed conflicts, i.e. the principle whereby the right of the parties to a conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited;
- Lastly, Protocol II considerably increases the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts which today take such a heavy toll.

Having briefly mentioned the progress accomplished in 1977, I should like to say a few words about the challenge to international humanitarian law constituted by the upsurge in terrorism. Terrorism is characterized by the use of violence against human beings, by acts of violence which strike innocent people, largely indiscriminately.

One of the very objectives of international humanitarian law, however, is to protect human beings from indiscriminate violence, and a careful examination of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols shows that these treaties are the most coherent and complete set of rules internationally prohibiting acts of terrorism. Whoever commits an act of terrorism in an armed conflict is thereby invariably violating humanitarian law.

As a final remark, I should like to draw your attention to another point which is too often not clearly recognized:

In addition to the specific strengthening of numerous sections of humanitarian law embodied in the two Protocols, the mere fact that the international community put so much effort into reaffirming and developing humanitarian law is a highly significant political event. It is an act of faith in humanitarian law and, through the resulting legal provisions, an act of faith in human dignity which must be safeguarded even in the extreme crisis of war.

The ICRC will always strive to preserve that achievement. In the name of the ICRC, I appeal again today to those States not yet party to the Protocols to ratify or accede to both of them as soon as possible. The ICRC, for its part, will continue to encourage the States to do so, until the Protocols have been universally accepted.

The ICRC's future president joins the Committee

The members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), meeting in Assembly on December 3 and 4, 1986, welcomed a new member: Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, future President of the institution.

Last July, Mr. Sommaruga accepted the ICRC's call to take the institution's highest office. On May 1, he will succeed President

Alexandre Hay, who will retire after more than ten years at the head of the ICRC.

Mr. Sommaruga's admission to the ICRC Assembly brings to 21 the number of members of the supreme policy-making body of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga previously held a prominent post in the Federal Administration of Switzerland, that of State Secretary at the Office of External Economic Affairs.

Round Table of Experts in War Surgery

The ICRC thought that it would be useful to set down its unrivalled experience of war surgery in a manual on the subject which could be used in the training of surgeons from the ICRC itself and from National Societies who go on medical missions.

To this end, Dr. R. Russbach, Dr. D. Dufour and Ms E. Nyffenegger, all of the ICRC Medical Division, held a meeting in Geneva from 11 to 14 September 1986 with five of the leading experts in war surgery today: Brigadier Owen Smith, professor at Cambridge (Great Britain), the Surgeon-in-chief of the Swedish army, Rear Admiral B. Zetterström, Dr. J. Salmela from the Finnish Red Cross, Dr. S. Kroman Jensen from the Danish Red Cross and Dr. F. Stenning, from Australia.

Over these four days, the experts established the broad outlines of the manual, which must cater for the ICRC's specific requirements. They then stated in detail what must go into the separate chapters, exchanged views on the surgical treatment of war casualties, and then indicated certain subjects which the ICRC might examine in greater depth, such as the treatment of infected wounds, which is the major problem in situations where the wounded cannot be rapidly evacuated.

These experts generally agreed with the ICRC's present surgical policy, and they will meet again in July 1987 to finalize the draft of the manual which is intended for use by surgeons and nurses from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC and medical personnel from other humanitarian agencies.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

September-October 1986

Africa

South Africa

Following the decision reached on 28 October by the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross to suspend the South African government delegation from participation in its work, the ICRC was requested by the South African authorities to suspend its activities in South Africa and to leave the country at the latest by 30 November. The ICRC delegates based in South Africa therefore made the necessary arrangements to close down the delegation and return to Geneva by that date.

On 26 November, however, in response to the letter sent by the President of the ICRC to President Botha recalling the ICRC's objection to the decision reached by the Conference, the South African government informed the ICRC that it had reconsidered its decision. The ICRC delegates were therefore authorized to resume their tasks in South Africa.

In September and October, before the ICRC's work was suspended, the delegation had continued its activities in South Africa, and, in particular, further strengthened its co-operation with the National Society.

In September, the delegates carried out their annual series of visits to places of detention: they saw 304 sentenced security prisoners in 7 detention centres in South Africa and two security detainees held in *Venda* and 14 in *Ciskei*.

Sudan

In September and October, owing to the lack of adequate safety guarantees, the ICRC was unable to resume its airlift to southern Sudan. However, the food aid operation launched in Narus from Kenya was regularly carried on throughout the period under review. Also in Narus the medical assistance operation took on particular importance in view of the increased number of wounded, who were taken to four different hospitals—the tent hospital in Narus, and Lokichokio, Lodwar and Kakuma hospitals (the latter three in Kenya). The ICRC provided these four hospitals with medical supplies.

Ethiopia

From 27 September to 1 October, Mr. A. Pasquier, ICRC Director of Operations, was in Ethiopia for discussions with the Minister of the Interior, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the head of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

Togo

On 11 October, two delegates and a doctor visited twenty persons in Lomé who had been arrested after the attempted *coup d'Etat* of 23 September.

Latin America

El Salvador

In the hours following the earthquake that struck the city of San Salvador on 10 October, the ICRC delegation joined the National Society and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in helping to evacuate the wounded, supply the hospitals and first-aid posts with medical equipment and medicaments and distribute food and basic necessities to some 123,000 homeless persons.

Once the initial emergency was over, the ICRC delegates resumed their usual activities throughout the country (visits to

security detainees in 143 places of detention in September and in 98 detention centres in October; joint food-aid programme carried out with the National Society; medical and sanitation programmes).

After protracted negotiations, the delegates finally made a first visit, on 19 October, to a prisoner who had been held by the opposition for the past year.

In *Nicaragua*, assistance for civilians affected by the conflict situation was carried on, in close co-operation with the National Society, in areas along the Atlantic coast and, in the north-east (Rio Coco area) and north-west of the country. ICRC visits to places of detention in Nicaragua continued throughout the period under review.

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In *Chile*, the ICRC continued its visits to security detainees held in the prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and, as from October, the detention centres under the authority of the National Information Centre (CNI). The delegates also continued their visits in *Peru* and *Colombia*.

On 14 October 488 *Haitians*, passengers on board a ship hijacked to Miami but stranded en route in Cuba because of serious damage, were repatriated under ICRC auspices from San José to Guantanamo by means of three aircraft chartered by the Cuban Government.

Asia

Afghan conflict

The head of the New Delhi regional delegation and a physiotherapist arrived in Kabul on 4 September to discuss with the Afghan Red Crescent and make concrete arrangements for medical projects (rehabilitation of the physically disabled; war surgery) and a project for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law, which will be jointly carried out by the ICRC and the National Society. The ICRC physiotherapist remained in Kabul until mid-October to continue preparations.

Negotiations also took place at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning activities which the ICRC is seeking to develop in aid of persons detained in the country.

Discussions continued, in Geneva, with the government and Red Crescent delegations taking part in the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross.

Kampuchea conflict

Concerned about the security of civilians arriving in the central area of the Khmer-Thai border, the ICRC pursued its efforts to persuade the Thai authorities to let these persons be transferred to a safer place on Thai soil. The outcome of these efforts was a large-scale operation carried out on 25 October under the auspices of the ICRC and with logistical support from the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO), involving the transfer of 1,123 Khmer and 58 Vietnamese nationals to Evacuation Site No. 2. Another group of 23 Vietnamese had already been transferred there at the beginning of the month.

The ICRC chief medical officer went to Phom Penh on 25 September for discussions with Kampuchean authorities on setting up a medical team in Kampot provincial hospital (a Polish Red Cross team working under ICRC responsibility); the authorities had already given their agreement in principle. The ICRC provides logistical and administrative support to Australian, French, Swedish and Swiss medical teams, working in various Kampuchean hospitals.

Viet Nam

In co-operation with the Vietnamese Red Cross, the ICRC organized an international humanitarian law seminar at Ho Chi Minh City from 23 to 26 September. The seminar was held for persons in charge of the provincial Red Cross branches in the south of the country; several government representatives and members of the armed forces also took part.

Middle East and North Africa

Iran/Iraq conflict

In Iraq, ICRC delegates carried out a series of visits in October to some 10,000 Iranian prisoners of war whom they visit on a regular basis. The Iraqi authorities also authorized the ICRC to visit two camps holding Iranian prisoners of war captured in 1986 and which the ICRC had not yet visited. From 22 to 25 October, the delegates were thus able to register 2,810 new prisoners of war.

In Iran, however, the ICRC has still not been able to resume its protection activities in aid of Iraqi prisoners of war; these activities were suspended by order of the Iranian authorities on 10 October 1984.

In September and October, the ICRC continued exchanging family messages between Iranian prisoners of war and their families and between Iraqi prisoners of war and their families.

Lebanon

After the fighting that broke out on 1 October in southern Lebanon, especially around the Palestinian camps outside Tyre and Sidon, the ICRC remained in constant touch with the parties involved so as to be able to intervene in aid of the victims and to evacuate the wounded, in co-operation with the Lebanese Red Cross. Throughout October, the ICRC delegates regularly visited the hospitals and dispensaries in southern Lebanon and distributed medicaments and medical equipment according to needs. Material assistance, blankets especially, was also provided to displaced families that had fled the Tyre area and had sought refuge in Sidon.

The delegates were able to enter Rashidiyeh camp on 12 October and, two days later, seven wounded and sick persons were evacuated by the ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross. Since 17 October, the ICRC delegates have, however, no longer been able to enter the camp.

A number of people were arrested on both sides during the fighting. The ICRC has offered its services to visit persons detained by the Palestinian groups and Amal and to exchange family messages.

Western Sahara conflict

From 6 to 11 October, two ICRC delegates and a doctor carried out visits in Morocco to 99 Algerian prisoners in Moroccan hands. The ICRC had not been able to visit these prisoners since 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS

Antigua and Barbuda: Declaration of succession to the Geneva Conventions and of accession to the Additional Protocols

Antigua and Barbuda deposited with the Swiss Government, on 6 October 1986, an instrument of succession to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and of accession to the two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977.

According to international practice, the four Conventions came into effect for Antigua and Barbuda retroactively on 1 November 1981 *i.e.* the date of its independence. The two Additional Protocols will enter into force on 6 April 1987, *i.e.* six months after registration of the instrument of accession.

Antigua and Barbuda is the 165th State party to the Geneva Conventions, the 62nd State party to Protocol I and the 55th to Protocol II.

Accession to the Protocols by the Republic of Sierra Leone

On 21 October 1986 the Republic of Sierra Leone deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

In accordance with their provisions, the Protocols will come into force for the Republic of Sierra Leone on 21 April 1987.

The Republic of Sierra Leone is the 63rd State to become party to Protocol I and the 56th to Protocol II.

Accession to the Protocols by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

On 21 October 1986 the Republic of Guinea-Bissau deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

In accordance with their provisions, the Protocols will come into force for the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on 21 April 1987.

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is the 64th State to become party to Protocol I and the 57th to Protocol II.

Accession to the Protocols by the State of Bahrain

On 30 October 1986 the State of Bahrain deposited with the Swiss Government an instrument of accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977.

In accordance with their provisions, the Protocols will enter into force for the State of Bahrain on 30 April 1987.

The State of Bahrain is the 65th State to become party to Protocol I and the 58th to Protocol II.

Inter-Parliamentary Union Resolution on International Humanitarian Law

The Inter-Parliamentary Union held its 76th Conference in Buenos Aires from 6 to 11 October 1986. One of the main items on the agenda, which was adopted in April 1986 at the Mexico Conference, was the contribution of parliaments to the application and progress of international humanitarian law applicable in cases of armed conflicts.

Seventy-five members of parliaments, representing sixty-two different countries, expressed their views on the subject; they stressed the positive action taken by the ICRC in developing and ensuring respect for humanitarian law and very widely advocated the ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

The Conference unanimously adopted a resolution on the contribution of parliaments to the application and progress of international humanitarian law applicable in cases of armed conflicts (see below).

The item was introduced by Mr. Maurice Aubert, Vice-President of the ICRC, accompanied at this Conference by Mr. Serge Nessi, Head of the Financing Division, Mr. René Kosirnik, Head of the Legal Division, Mrs. Sylvie Junod, ICRC regional delegate in Argentina, and Mr. Jean-Daniel Biéler, Deputy Head of the Division of International Organizations.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO THE APPLICATION AND PROGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW APPLICABLE IN CASES OF ARMED CONFLICTS

*Resolution adopted unanimously
in Buenos Aires on 11 October 1986*

The 76th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Mindful of the need to eradicate the scourge of war and armed conflicts of all kinds which threaten human dignity and inflict unspeakable sufferings on mankind, and *underlining* in particular the importance of preventing nuclear war, which endangers human existence,

Deploring the grave humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts, such as loss of human lives, prolonged detention of persons involved in hostilities as well as others, torture or other forms of cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, separation of families,

forced displacement of persons, mass refugee movements and destruction of property,

Stressing the absolute need to protect and assist victims of armed conflicts, whatever the nature and form of those conflicts or the origin of the victims,

Recalling the international conventions of a humanitarian nature, in particular the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and their two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977,

Reaffirming the right afforded to freedom-fighters and other combatants such as defined under Additional Protocol I of 1977 to enjoy the status of prisoners of war,

Recalling the Convention adopted on 10 October 1980 on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments, the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons,

Noting that, in times of armed conflicts, the most basic humanitarian rules which protect persons who are hors de combat and the civilian population are frequently violated,

Recalling that by virtue of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 States have the duty not only to respect international humanitarian law but also to ensure that it is respected,

Paying tribute to the governmental and non-governmental international organizations whose activities help to alleviate the sufferings of persons affected by armed conflicts,

Stressing above all the mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in case of armed conflict which, by virtue of its mandate laid down in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, protects and assists victims of armed conflicts, in conformity with its principles which are, among others, humanity, neutrality and impartiality,

Recalling that the independence of the ICRC in relation to influences which may be exerted by governments, parties to a conflict, military commands and other authorities is one of the prerequisites for the execution of its duties,

Noting the broadening of the ICRC's protection and assistance activities the world over, which implies significantly higher expenditure levels,

Regretting that, nearly a decade after their adoption, the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, one of which concerns international armed conflicts and the other non-international armed conflicts, adopted on 8 June 1977 by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts, have only been ratified by a small number of States,

Stressing the importance of those Protocols, which contain new rules for new types of armed conflicts and which considerably strengthen the protection of the civilian population against the effects of hostilities,

Underlining the need to reaffirm and develop provisions protecting the victims of armed conflicts and to supplement measures intended to reinforce their application and to that end to continue the codification and progressive development of the rules of law applicable in armed conflicts,

Recalling the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross (23-31 October 1986), the highest deliberating body of the International Red Cross which will also be called upon to study humanitarian problems caused by armed conflicts and to propose solutions, in the presence of representatives of States parties to the Geneva Conventions,

Emphasizing the role of Parliaments in contributing to the application and progress of international humanitarian law applicable in cases of armed conflicts,

1. *Solemnly appeals* that the rules of international humanitarian law and universally recognized humanitarian principles be respected at all times and under all circumstances;
2. *Calls on* parliaments and governments:
 - (a) To give priority to humanitarian problems arising from all kinds of armed conflicts and to work actively to solve them;
 - (b) To commit themselves at national and international levels to ensuring that international humanitarian law is accepted and respected by all and under all circumstances;
 - (c) To support efforts aimed at increasing public awareness of the whole range of activities carried out by the International Red Cross, especially those of their own National Society;
 - (d) To devote all their attention to the duty incumbent on them, by virtue of the Geneva Conventions, to disseminate the

- principles of international humanitarian law, especially in the armed forces;
- (e) To provide the ICRC with any kind of support it may need to fulfil its humanitarian mission;
 - (f) To hasten the procedure of ratification of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, one of which relates to the protection of the victims of international armed conflicts and the other to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts, both adopted on 8 June 1977, or the procedure of accession to those instruments;
 - (g) To take all measures in the field of national legislation which are necessary to ensure respect for international humanitarian law;
3. *Urges* all States that have not done so to become parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects and its Protocols I and II;
 4. *Notes* that under Article 8 of that 1980 Convention, conferences may be convened to review or amend the annexed Protocols, or to adopt additional Protocols relating to other categories of conventional weapons;
 5. *Praises* the humanitarian activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ICRC and other international relief agencies, and *calls on* all nations to contribute more generously to the budgets of those institutions;
 6. *Stresses* that respect for the decisions of the International Court of Justice and other jurisdictions can strengthen humanitarian law;
 7. *Calls on* governments to participate actively in the Twenty-fifth International Conference of the Red Cross, which will be held from 23 to 31 October 1986 in Geneva, in a spirit of constructive dialogue so as to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and alleviate the condition of victims of armed conflicts.
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BOOKS AND REVIEWS

LA PAIX, POURQUOI PAS?

Give Peace a Chance

With an apt sense of timing since the United Nations has declared 1986 to be the International Year of Peace, three people from very different professional backgrounds (international relations, psychosociology and philosophy) but very closely connected through their work within the French Red Cross, have recently published a book entitled "La Paix, pourquoi pas?" (Give Peace a Chance) *.

The purpose of this book is to present a new and pragmatic approach to peace, by trying to generate and foster a spirit of peace among young people and help them translate their ideal into practice; it gives an account of original experiments carried out on the theme of peace for and among young people in several cities throughout France.

Educating the young in a spirit of peace and friendship between peoples of the world is a major concern of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement¹. What this book in fact attempts to demonstrate is what "spirit of peace" actually means, and it seeks to propose suitable ways and means of inspiring young people with this spirit today.

Asked what the word "peace" means in 1986, many young people reply that it is joy, love, freedom, well-being, justice and solidarity; they also,

* *La Paix, pourquoi pas?* by Jean-Daniel Remond, a psychosociologist in charge of development in the social and health fields at the French Red Cross, François de Rose, French Ambassador and Chairman of the French Red Cross Commission on International Affairs and Chantal Ruiz-Barthélémy, a philosophy teacher in charge of Junior Red Cross activities at the French Red Cross. Published by Hachette, Paris, 1986, 158 pp., 50 FF. (Foreword by Mr. Louis Dauge, French Ambassador and President of the French Red Cross.)

¹ *Youth education for peace*: The components of the Movement should pay great attention to educating young volunteers in the spirit of peace and friendship among peoples. They should actively encourage the development of Red Cross programmes for strengthening mutual understanding and solidarity among youth, together with the exchange of information of different countries. In particular, the Red Cross must fight all attempts to imbue children with contempt or hatred for other peoples. (Extract from *What the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement does and wants to do for peace—Fundamental Guidelines for the contribution of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to a true peace in the world*, adopted by the Second World Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on Peace, Aaland-Stockholm, 2-7 September 1984.

however, see peace as a total absence of tension, as plenitude, serenity, and absolute stillness, "as in death"! The authors of this book in fact show that the concepts of peace, freedom and love have become rather imprecise components of an overall ideal and embody people's hopes and fantasies. Peace is idealized to the extent that everyone can read into it whatever he pleases and, as the concept gradually loses its original meaning, it acquires a new series of connotations. When the word peace is banalized around and used to mean anything a speaker wishes it to mean, it can become a highly dangerous weapon in the hands of those who know how to wield it.

Everyone wants peace, but the question is how to work towards it in concrete terms and in everyday life, where the media overwhelm the public with a vast amount of information, which is a jumble not only of war and peace, conflicts and negotiations, cold war and dissuasion, hostage-taking, arms sales and terrorism, but also includes the will to achieve peace, strategies of fear, efforts to conciliate opposing parties and processes of mediation.

The average person may thus lose all sense of independent judgement and be thrown into what the authors of the book call a "state of non-war", imposed on the general public by forces against which it feels increasingly powerless to react.

This is why the authors prefer to speak of the "spirit of peace", which must be built up and developed so as to form an integral part of everyday life. It is perhaps the only way of restoring the true meaning and scope of the word "peace" and ensuring that the word is used with some degree of precision. This is first and foremost a matter of education.

It is true that today's world is one of violence where aggressiveness and conquest are the name of the game, both reflecting a constructive form of dynamism, but at the same time creating tensions and emphasizing differences. The challenge now is to channel such energy into creative efforts to develop the "spirit of peace". The authors feel that the use of modern technology and a world-wide information network can be of crucial importance in bringing about a change in cultural outlook and a constructive attitude towards peace. For instance, team work and consultation procedures in firms nowadays are forerunners of this change of attitude, leading to a wider recourse to negotiation and mediation.

According to the authors of the book, international aid, as a powerful means of adjusting and reinstating balance on a global scale and with its capacity to generate solidarity, offers a unique opportunity of fostering a spirit of peace.

Great care must be taken, however, to ensure that those involved in providing such assistance are properly warned against the increasing manipulation of international aid and the risk of falling prey to "charity-mongering" or political interests.

Hence the importance of respecting the principles of neutrality and independence to ensure a wholesome distribution of international aid. And

who embodies those principles more completely than does the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, by its pacific ideal, its pacifying influence throughout the world, and by its very acts?

*
* *

In an attempt to assess the aptitude of young people to promote peace, the French Red Cross carried out an experiment at a secondary school in a large French city and spent two days discussing peace with a group of about thirty adolescents. By using the simple method of group discussion, the French Red Cross noted how these young people's attitudes towards peace evolved over the two days they spent together: initial aggressiveness, scepticism and irony gradually turned into a general feeling of curiosity and interest; at the end of the two days, the French Red Cross noted a considerable motivation and sense of responsibility among the members of the group, who hoped that it would be possible to organize education for peace and to find means of communicating the "will to achieve peace".

The next step will be to make the general population aware of the need to foster the spirit of peace, through a series of training programmes involving not only young people, but also the local press and radio and the local authorities.

The book also describes other experiments carried out in various French cities among schoolchildren and adults and offers a number of suggestions for activities on the theme of peace (e.g. attempting to reduce the urge to commit acts of violence, developing solidarity on an international scale, seeking out young people from foreign countries living in one's home city, etc.). Readers too are invited to evaluate their aptitude to promote peace by filling in a questionnaire.

In conclusion, this book makes extremely worthwhile reading for several reasons: the major importance of the topic, first of all, the authors' in-depth analysis of the concept of peace, the measured message of hope it conveys and the variety and originality of the experiments conducted among young people.

As Mr. Dauge emphasizes in his Foreword, great benefit may be derived from this book not only by readers whose attitudes to peace may be cynical or disheartened, apprehensive or perhaps even simply indifferent, but also by parents, teachers and staff in charge of dissemination within the National Societies, all of whom are anxious to help young people integrate the spirit of peace into the context of everyday life, within the family, at work, and as citizens of their country.

Jacques Meurant

VIOLENZA E DIRITTO NELL'ERA NUCLEARE *

International Law in spite of everything

Published in pocket-book form, Professor Cassese's work is intended for all those who, without belonging to the circle of experts in international law, are interested in international relations. Taking a few well-known cases and incidents from contemporary international life, the author shows the place occupied by law in events which seem entirely dominated by States' political interests.

He examines, in turn, the first use of nuclear arms in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the broader issue of the legality of first recourse to such weapons, the loopholes in the prohibition of force, the Sabra and Chatila massacre, the Astiz case, the problem of the plea of superior orders as vindication and the punishment of war crimes and, lastly, the possibilities and the limitations of national magistrates acting as "assault troops" in implementing international law, in particular those of its instruments dealing with the protection of the human being.

Concerning nuclear arms, the author draws the conclusion that their use in Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a violation of customary law, but that today the five nuclear powers and some of their allies have reached a sort of a tacit agreement departing from customary rules and allowing first use of nuclear arms by one of their number, but not by the rest of the international community.

In the chapter on Sabra and Chatila there is a minor error which should be put straight for the benefit of readers interested in humanitarian law: on page 86 the author says that, according to the interpretation of the UNHCR and the ICRC, the inhabitants of the two camps were not covered by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention because they had refugee status. In fact, such an opinion was never expressed, and the camps' inhabitants, who were not nationals of the occupying power, were beyond all doubt entitled to the protection of the entire Fourth Convention. A particular legal problem with regard to refugees arises only if they are nationals of the occupying power.

The author has certainly succeeded in what he set out to do: he provides an answer to questions which seem to lie outside the scope of any legal provisions, shows that this answer is neither unrealistic nor a mere endorsement of the balance of power, and demonstrates that law remains a reality in international relations, if only because those who violate it always look for legal arguments to justify their actions. He lets it be seen which values he advocates, but he does so with considerable realism and impartiality, presenting all the various arguments put forward.

* Antonio Cassese, *Violenza e diritto nell'era nucleare* (Violence and law in the nuclear age) Saggi tascabili Laterza, 1986, 196 pages, in Italian.

In spite of its academic rigour and numerous references, the book remains very readable, almost enthralling. It will certainly restore hope—without giving any illusions—to all those who are strongly attached to the idea of the supremacy of law in world affairs but who feel somewhat disoriented in the face of reality. Consequently, we cannot but regret the fact that, since the book has been published only in Italian, it will have only a limited circle of readers. Given its subject matter and the way it has been dealt with, Professor Cassese's book would certainly merit being translated into other languages.

Marco Sassòli

LONDON UNDER ATTACK *

Five scenarios of destruction

Neither the government nor strategists consider an attack on England to be probable within the next decade. The possibility, however, is not zero. Based on this assumption and on the obligation for cities to plan their own civil defence and preparedness, the authorities of Greater London established a high-level, independent Commission of six experts to study all the facets of the problem on a multi-million community and to report on what would happen to the capital, to its houses, inhabitants, roads, hospitals, airports, food supply, services, water, climate... How would the ordinary Londoner—parent, teacher, manual worker, doctor, nurse, fireman, government official or young banker react to nuclear attack or to the threat of such an attack?

The outcome is a gigantic study of 33 separate volumes of research and investigation carried out for the Greater London Area War Risk Study (GLAWARS) Commission, conveniently brought together in some 400 pages in the book *London under attack* which, despite the terrifying findings and the plethora of charts and statistics, makes eminently easy, intelligible reading.

The depth and breadth of the Report go far beyond any investigation previously available to any official body, country or organization, and the findings are applicable to any major city or large population in the world. Also, comparative analogies and differences in the planning and philosophy of civil defence in different countries are most instructive and add to the wider relevance of the book.

* *London under attack. Report of the Greater London Area War Risk Study Commission.* By R. Clarke, A. Ehrlich, S. W. Gunn, J. S. Horner, J. M. Lee, P. Sarfman and F. von Hippel, Blackwell, Oxford and New York, 1986, 397 pp.

The Commissioners have based their investigations on six contingencies—ranging from the status quo (which they prefer to call continued non-belligerence rather than peace) to a war scare, and to full-scale nuclear war. Five attack scenarios are thoroughly studied on the basis of all available knowledge and on sophisticated computer models that calculate the extent of destruction, the number of deaths and casualties, and the needs resulting from each scenario.

The conclusions are horrifying and, hopefully, sobering: If nuclear weapons were ever deployed, attempts to restrict their use to military targets would likely fail. Attacks would likely extend into full-scale war. Up to 97% of the population of the metropolis would be killed or seriously injured. Four out of every five houses would be destroyed and the rest become unusable. Of the 3,525 ambulancemen only 100 might survive; the few ambulances and fire engines remaining undamaged would have great difficulty to operate due to lack of gasoline, electromagnetic pulse interference and rubble-blocked roads. It would take London 185 years to rebuild, assuming that any reconstruction were possible.

Another major finding of GLAWARS is that much smaller megatonnage than it was previously thought would be sufficient to cause irreparable damage: "Only" 1.35 Mt would suffice to lay the great city to waste. Medical facilities would be totally insufficient. Civil defence measures would be unable to cope. Nuclear winter would probably set in.

"The prospect facing those who initially survived would be fear, exhaustion, disease, pain and long, lonely misery. Avoiding a nuclear war is still the only way of avoiding this fate", warns the Report. With such a sober humanitarian conclusion from a non-political, independent scientific group, it is also gratifying for this *Review* to note that one of the experts of the select Commission was a Red Crosser.

The Review

HENRY DUNANT: THE STORY OF HIS LIFE IN PICTURES

A fascinating story for all ages

A strip cartoon volume on the life of Henry Dunant has just been published in both French and Flemish.* The idea was put forward by Carl Vandekerckhove, Director General of the Flemish section of the Belgian

* *Henry Dunant, Stichter van het Rode Kruis* (Flemish version) and *D'Henry Dunant à la Croix-Rouge d'aujourd'hui* (French version) (Henry Dunant: Founder of the Red Cross). Published by Carl Vandekerckhove, Editions du Rameau, Paris, 1986, 48 pp. C. Vandekerckhove is also the author of a biography of Henry Dunant: *Henry Dunant, Droom en Dad* (Henry Dunant: Dream and Action), Belgian Red Cross, Publication No. 3, 1978, 407 pp.

Red Cross, who produced these 48 pages of text and drawings on the life of the founder of the Red Cross. This publication is intended mainly for young people, but an older public will also discover plenty of food for thought in this illustration of the unique destiny of Henry Dunant—his youth, his discovery of Algeria, the shock of Solferino, the birth of the Red Cross, etc. The great quality of this biography is that it does not only describe the best known stages of Dunant's life, but also enables the reader to share the hopes, joys, fears and distress experienced by the initiator of the Red Cross. This brings Henry Dunant closer to us and give us a clearer picture of his family, friends and detractors. Thanks are also due to the author for throwing light upon the latter years of Henry Dunant's life, which are too often neglected by other biographers, and for describing humanitarian initiatives taken by Henry Dunant in areas other than the Red Cross.

The centrespread of this publication describes on the one hand the principles, role and structure of the International Red Cross and on the other the history, organization and activities of the National Society of the country in which the book is published. To date this has been done for the Flemish section of the Belgian Red Cross and for the French Red Cross.

It is to be hoped that this illustrated biography of Henry Dunant will be translated into other languages and widely used as an excellent means of dissemination.

J.M.

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Commentary on the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949

The International Committee of the Red Cross
Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Geneva, 1986,
xxxv + 1647 pp.

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C. PILLOUD, J. DE PREUX, Y. SANDOZ, B. ZIMMERMANN,
Ph. Eberlin, H.-P. Gasser, C.F. Wenger (Protocol I);
Ph. EBERLIN (Annex I); S.-S. JUNOD (Protocol II).

With the collaboration of J. PICTET.

Editing and co-ordination:

Y. SANDOZ, CH. SWINARSKI, B. ZIMMERMANN.

Following the adoption of the Additional Protocols in 1977, the ICRC decided to start working on the interpretation of these new treaties of international humanitarian law, just as it had published a Commentary on the Geneva Conventions after their adoption in 1949.

This work groups in a single volume the commentary on Protocol I, on Annex I thereto (Regulations concerning Identification) and on Protocol II, as well as a number of accessory texts, including a bibliography and an index.

The English version of the Commentary on the Additional Protocols will be published by the ICRC during the first half of 1987.

Both versions may be ordered at special prices until 30 June 1987 from *Martinus Nijhoff Publishers*, Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, P.O. Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

Price: 180 S.Fr./\$ 100.00 until 30 June 1987.

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- AFGHANISTAN (Democratic Republic of) — Afghan Red Crescent Society, Pulī Hartal, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA (Socialist People's Republic of) — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA (People's Democratic Republic of) — Algerian Red Crescent, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
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- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, A-1041, *Vienna 4*.
- BAHAMAS — The Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N-8331, *Nassau*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, 684-686, Bara Magh Bazar, Dhaka-17, G.P.O. Box No. 579, *Dhaka*.
- BARBADOS — The Barbados Red Cross Society, Red Cross House, Jemmotts Lane, *Bridgetown*.
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- BELIZE — Belize Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 413, *Belize City*.
- BENIN (People's Republic of) — Red Cross of Benin, B.P. No. 1, *Porto Novo*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar No. 1515, *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, 135 Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
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- BURUNDI — Burundi Red Cross, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
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- CAPE VERDE (Republic of) — Cruz Vermelha de Cabo Verde, Rua Unidade-Guiné-Cabo Verde, P.O. Box 119, *Praia*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC — Central African Red Cross Society, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
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- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Apartado postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, *Quito*.
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- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris*, CEDEX 08.
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- GUINEA-BISSAU — Sociedad Nacional da Cruz Vermelha de Guiné-Bissau, rua Justino Lopes No. 22-B *Bissau*.
- GUAYANA — The Guyana Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 10524, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haitian National Red Cross Society, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, 7.^a Calle, 1.^a y 2.^a Avenidas, *Comayagüela D.M.*
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca, 31, *Budapest 1367*, Mail Add.: 1367 *Budapest 5. Pf 121*.
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- INDIA — Indian Red Cross Society, 1, Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 110001*.
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- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, 00187 *Rome*.
- JAMAICA — The Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76, Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — The Japanese Red Cross Society, 1-3, Shiba-Daimon 1-chome, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10001, *Amman*.
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- KOREA (Democratic People's Republic of) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ryonhwa 1, Central District, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic of) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka, Nam San-Dong, Choong-Ku, *Seoul 100*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1359 Safat, *Kuwait*.
- LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru 100*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian Red Cross Society, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA — Libyan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, Heiligkreuz, 9490 *Vaduz*.

- LUXEMBOURG — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 404, *Luxembourg 2*.
- MADAGASCAR — Malagasy Red Cross Society, 1 rue Patrice-Lumumba, *Antananarivo*.
- MALAWI — Malawi Red Cross Society, Mahati Magandhi Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre 3*).
- MALAYSIA — Malaysian Red Crescent Society, National HQ, No. 32 Jalan Nipah, off Jalan Ampang, *Kuala Lumpur 55000*.
- MALI — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA — Mauritanian Red Crescent, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MAURITIUS — Mauritius Red Cross Society, Ste Thérèse Street, *Curepipe*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Calle Luis Vives 200, Colonia Polanco, *México 10 DF*.
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of Mongolia, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal Kalimati, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS — The Netherlands Red Cross, P.O.B. 28120, *2502 KC The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — The New Zealand Red Cross Society, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, *Wellington 1* (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*).
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, Apartado 3279, *Managua D.N.*
- NIGER — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 11386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, 11 Eko Akete Close, off St. Gregory Rd., P.O. Box. 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Drammensveien 20 A, *Oslo 2*, Mail add.: *Postboks 2338, Solli, Oslo 2*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters, Sector H-8, *Islamabad*.
- PANAMA — Red Cross Society of Panama, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA — Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 6545, *Boroko*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216 esq. José Berges, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Av. Camino del Inca y Nazarenas, Urb. Las Gardenias — Surco — Apartado 1534, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — The Philippine National Red Cross, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, P.O. Box 280, *Manila 2803*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, 00-950 *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, *1293 Lisbon*.
- QATAR — Qatar Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 5449, *Doha*.
- ROMANIA — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei, 29, *Bucarest*.
- RWANDA — Rwandese Red Cross, B.P. 425, *Kigali*.
- SAINT LUCIA — Saint Lucia Red Cross, 2, Mongiraud Street, *Castries*.
- SAN MARINO — Red Cross of San Marino, Comité central, *San Marino*.
- SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE — Sociedade Nacional da Cruz Vermelha de São Tomé e Príncipe, C.P. 96, *São Tomé*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15, Penang Lane, *Singapore 0923*.
- SOMALIA (Democratic Republic) — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — The South African Red Cross Society, 77, de Villiers Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg 2000*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato, 16, *Madrid 28010*.
- SRI LANKA (Dem. Soc. Rep. of) — The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106, Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo 7*.
- SUDAN (The Republic of the) — The Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SURINAME — Suriname Red Cross, Gravenberchstraat 2, *Paramaribo*.
- SWAZILAND — Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 377, *Mbabane*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Box 27316, *102-54 Stockholm*.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Rainmattstrasse 10, B.P. 2699, *3001 Berne*.
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC — Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanzania Red Cross National Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — The Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Hospital, *Bangkok 10500*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross, 51, rue Bokô Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TONGA — Tonga Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 456, *Nuku'alofa*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*, Trinidad, West Indies.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis 1000*.
- TURKEY — The Turkish Red Crescent Society, Genel Baskanligi, Karanfil Sokak No. 7, 06650 Kizilay-*Ankara*.
- UGANDA — The Uganda Red Cross Society, Plot 97, Buganda Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates, *Abu Dhabi*.
- UNITED KINGDOM — The British Red Cross Society, 9, Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1X 7EJ*.
- U.S.A. — American Red Cross, 17th and D. Streets, N.W., *Washington, D.C. 20006*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.S.R. — The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R., I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow, 117036*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello, N.º 4, Apartado 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Socialist Republic of) — Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triêu, *Hanoi*.
- WESTERN SAMOA — Western Samoa Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1616, *Apia*.
- YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the Yemen Arab Republic P.O. Box 1257, *Sana'a*.
- YEMEN (People's Democratic Republic of) — Red Crescent Society of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, P.O. Box 455, Crater, *Aden*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *11000 Belgrade*.
- ZAIRE — Red Cross Society of the Republic of Zaire, 41, av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA — Zambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 50 001, 2837 Brentwood Drive, Longacres, *Lusaka*.
- ZIMBABWE — The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 1406, *Harare*.